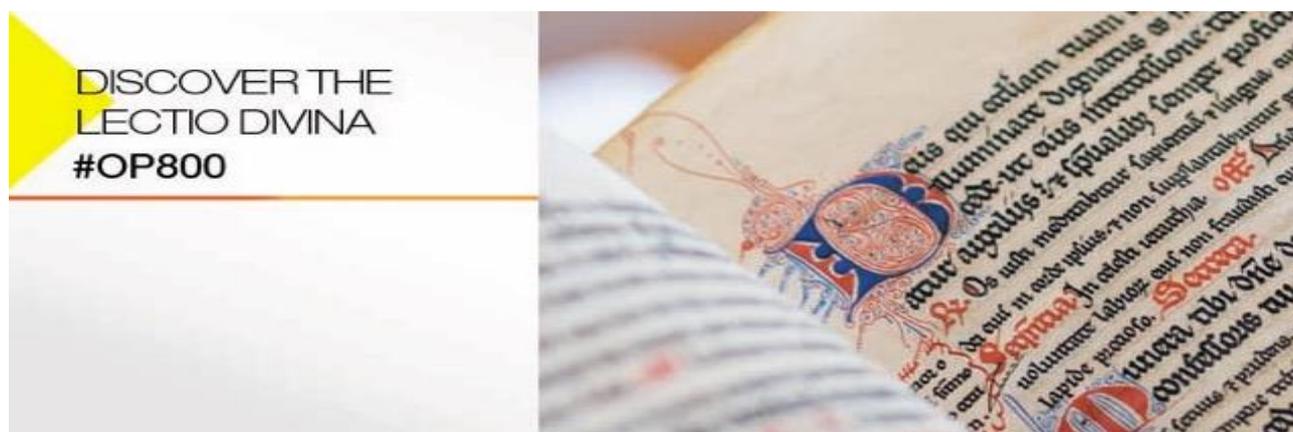




ORDER OF PREACHERS



Discover the Lectio Divina



As part of the activities of the Jubilee Year, we have daily Lectio Divina from brothers, sisters and lay members of the Dominican Family. These will be available throughout the Jubilee Year.

Discover the Jubilee Lectio Divina daily on the Jubilee website – www.op.org/lectio

You can also receive it daily on Dominican App and iDoms Portal. You can download these apps at Apple Store and Google Play Store.

• **FOURTH MEETING OF DOMINICAN NUNS OF THE EUROPA UTRISQUE REGION**

Euromon – fourth regional meeting of Nuns of Europa Utriusque – took place in September 2015 in Krzeszowice by Krakow. For two days we were happy to have our Master fr. Bruno Cadoré among us. For the whole meeting we enjoyed the presence of two other friars from Santa Sabina: Promoter for the Nuns, fr. César Valero, and the Vicar of the Master, fr. Vivian Boland. Provincial of the Polish Province spent with us the first two days of the meeting. We were grateful for his welcome and his presence among us.

Region Europa Utriusque is a region of many different languages, but we manage to communicate in three languages: English, German and Polish. For this we need to use translation equipment. With much gratitude we acknowledge the help of seven friars and apostolic sisters from Germany, Austria, Poland and Ireland who helped us as simultaneous interpreters. In them, the whole Dominican family was present. We were very grateful not only for their hard work but also for their fraternal presence and sharing in our discussions. Fr. Philippe Mc Shane – besides being one of the interpreters – made excellent photos that can be seen here.

Fr. Bruno Cadoré spoke to us about the Order and the Jubilee and he answered many questions from the plenary. He encouraged us to continue our collaboration as a region. Fr. Vivian Boland gave us inspiring talks on itinerancy; first on Itinerancy in the Bible; the second talk was on Dominican itinerancy. Each talk was followed by discussion in language groups. We shared on how we as nuns experience Dominican itinerancy. It is for example in detachment from our own little ways, from places, customs... Some nuns



shared how itinerancy became a blessing in disguise when they had to leave their old monasteries and move to new places or build their new monasteries.

Fr. César Valero, our promotor, was with us as a loving brother. He spoke to us about his work as promotor, about the visits he made to many of our monasteries in Europe and other parts of the world. During the breaks I saw him engaged in many individual discussions. Being present at some of these exchanges as a translator, I noted Fr. César's very human, wise and understanding approach to each one of his sisters in their personal situations and in the various conditions of their communities.

At the end of the meeting the floor was open for evaluation, discussion and the sharing of ideas. It was noted we would like to continue to strengthen the bonds among us as a region. For example, we want to create some kind of a catalogus of the region. We want to inform each other of what is going on in our monasteries, about retreats and courses just in case a sister from another community might like to join.

The German novice mistresses spoke about the intention of renewing the meetings of nuns in formation and novice mistresses from the German speaking monasteries, something similar to what the Slavonic monasteries (Eastern/Central Europe) have been doing since 2012, with view of eventually starting collaboration between the two groups.

We were grateful to the friars of the Polish province who served us also as drivers to and from the airport. Our gratitude goes to the Lazarists who run the Vincentinum retreat centre, the venue of the meeting, in a beautiful park-like setting.

The next Euromon will take place in September 2018 in the same venue, Krzeszowice near Krakow. It is important to underline that the Euromon meetings are regional assemblies in a region that cannot easily form a federation or association because of the great diversity of the countries and languages.

Sr. Josefa Strettiová OP

• **Opening the Jubilee of the Order in Iraq**

On 7 November 2015, throughout the world, members of the Dominican family launched the festivities for their 800th anniversary.

The General Promoter of the Rosary went to Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan to celebrate this event. In fraternal simplicity and joy the Jubilee was opened there with a mass in one of the houses of the Sisters of Saint Catherine of Sienna.

The Master of the Order, Brother Bruno Cadoré had communicated his thoughts just before the beginning of the celebration: "The "holy preaching" at Erbil will be particularly close to my heart during this evening's celebration. Convey my fraternal affection to the sisters, brothers and all their families."

Fr Louis-Marie's homily underlined that the Jubilee offers each of us an opportunity to find the road to sanctity, according to three methods:

- By being what we should be at the heart of the Dominican family: "We all have our place in this family and we pray for each other. My sisters, perhaps you have never been to Fatima, but Fatima comes to you, here in Iraq. A few minutes ago I received a message from that town's Monastery and one of the sisters wrote: "Our prayers accompany you in that large country. Tell them, please, that we are with them in the very heart of our prayers."

- By welcoming God's Mercy. Mercy for others and mercy for oneself. And it is no coincidence that our Jubilee corresponds to the one of Mercy desired by Pope Francis!

- By taking refuge under Our Lady's mantle. Saint Dominic's vision is well known: in heaven, he is reunited with all the members of his Order under the Virgin's mantle!



Live as a family, in mercy, under Our Lady's mantle!
That's the programme for our Jubilee... a programme of sanctity!
Fr. Louis-Marie ARIÑO-DURAND, o.p.

• **Seven novices from Africa receive the Dominican habit in Seville**

On Sunday, the 1st of November 2015, the Solemnity of All Saints, nine novices, of whom seven Africans, received the Dominican habit in Seville, Spain. Originating from several countries, the nine novices belong to three different Provinces of the Order. Three are from the province of Spain: brother Carlos Avila Martinez (from Argentina) and brothers Salvador Recoba Raso and Jesus Ngema Ndong Bindang (from Equatorial Guinea, Africa, the new foundation of Malabo). Brother Nestor Ruben Morales Gutierrez (from Cuba) belongs to the province of Betica. The other five brothers : Antonio Paulo Manuel, Mariano Dinha Domingos, Inacio Kambambi Katchilingi, Lazaro Santos Estevao Sandala and Tomas Chissambo Luis, from Angola (Provincial Vicariate of Angola), are sons of the province of Portugal.

The vestition ceremony took place during the Eucharistic celebration presided by brother Miguel de Burgos, Prior Provincial of Betica, in the Church of Saint Thomas Aquinas Convent of Seville. It was attended by the provincials of Spain, Aragon, Portugal and the Vicar of the Vicariate of Spain of the Province of the Holy Rosary. Also present was brother Miguel Angel del Rio, Socius of the Master of the Order for the Iberian Peninsula, Italy and Malta. The novices received the habit of the Order from their respective Provincial. After their novitiate, the brothers will return to their respective entities for institutional studies.

Let us pray for these young people who are committed to follow Christ in the Order of Preachers which is celebrating the Jubilee of the 800 years of its confirmation by Pope Honorius III in 1216. Let us pray also for the Inter-Africa (IAOP), which celebrates 40 years of its existence, since the first meeting of the Dominicans living in sub-Saharan Africa which took place in April 1976 in Ibadan, Nigeria, from the initiative of Brother Vincent de Couesnongle, then Master of the Order of Preachers. Let us also keep in our prayers, the Mini-summit of IAOP to be held in December in Luanda, Angola to assess the implementation of the decisions of the 12th General Assembly of the IAOP held in Nairobi, Kenya, in July 2014. Among other the issues, are the inter-African common novitiates.

Fr. Gabriel Samba, op

• **International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities (ICDF) meets at Santa Sabina**

On Thursday, November 5, as part of the activities of the celebration of the Opening of Jubilee Year of the Order, the International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities (ICLDF) met in the Convent of Santa Sabina in Rome

In the meeting, the Council focused on the planning of the International Dominican Laity Congress which will be held in Portugal in October 2018 with the theme, "Our Future: Justice, Peace and Care of Creation". The Council worked on the logistics of the Congress, the preliminary list of guest speakers and the various working committees of the Congress.

Concurrently with the meeting of the ICLDF, a meeting of the European Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities (ECLDF) was also held. Mr Hector L. Marquez, the President of ICLDF was invited to briefly address the European Council members.

The members of the International Council and the European Council both had the opportunity to share experiences during the days leading to the opening of the Jubilee Year and they were also part of the Opening Mass in the Basilica of Santa Sabina.

Different cultures, different languages, one spirituality. We are all Dominican brothers and sisters!

• **Scientific Committee for the Mission Congress of the Order**

As part of the celebration of the Jubilee Year, there will be an International Mission Congress in Rome from 18 to 20 January 2017. To prepare for this Congress, the Order has set up a committee of Dominican experts



from different parts of the world and from different fields of academic endeavour. This committee will act as a think tank to reflect and share expertise and experiences on the Dominican mission.

The Congress which will be part of the closing ceremony of the Jubilee Year, is aimed at highlighting and promoting the mission of the Order through a theological and pastoral reflection on issues central to our preaching mission.

According to the Acts of the General Chapter of Trogir (2013);

“in celebration a Jubilee, the Order seeks to renew itself by entering into a dynamic process that culminates in sending the friars to preach anew, just as Dominic sent the first brethren. As we prepare to be sent anew, we ask ourselves: By whom are we sent? To whom are we sent? With whom are we sent? What do we bring with us in being sent? (#51).

For this purpose, the Congress will serve as the unique avenue for the summation of the reflections the Order has been developing through the different forums and the Salamanca Process (#109-114)

The preparation for the Congress is coordinated by fr Orlando Rueda Acevedo, the Socius of the Master for Apostolic Life. The Committee tagged, “Scientific Committee” is composed of friars, sisters and lay Dominicans from all over the world. The Committee had its first meeting on the 9th of November at Santa Sabina, Rome.

These are members of the Commission:

1. fr. Darren DIAS (Canada). Director of the Dominican Institute of Toronto. He is the president of the Committee.
2. fr. Michael MASCARI (USA). Socius of the Master of the Order for Intellectual Life.
3. fr. Thierry-Marie COURAU (France). Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Sciences of the Catholic Institute of Paris.
4. fr. Rémi CHENO (Egypt). From the Dominican Institute for Oriental Studies, Cario.
5. fr. Marcio COUTO (Brazil). Regent of Studies in Brazil and Coordinator and Professor of the Faculty of Theology of the Benedictines in Sao Paulo.
6. fr. Anthony AKINWALE (Nigeria). Professor and President of the Dominican Institute, Ibadan.
7. fr. Paul MURRAY (Rome). Professor of Spirituality at the Institute of Spirituality of the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome.
8. fr. Felicísimo MARTINEZ (Spain). Professor at the Pastoral Institute of Madrid.
9. fr. Carlos Mario ALZATE MONTES (Colombia). Rector of the University of St Thomas, Bogota.
10. fr. Gérard TIMONER (Philippines). Vice-Chancellor of the University of Santo Tomas, Manila and member of the International Theological Commission (ITC).
11. Sr Kathleen McMANNUS (USA). Professor of Theology, Portland.
12. Sr Helen ALFORD (Rome). Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome.
13. Ms Ruth Anne HENDERSEN (Italy). Associate of the General Promoter for the Laity.
14. Mrs Nikolett MURÁNYL (Hungary). Member of the European Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities.
15. Prof Michael ATTRIDGE (USA). Director of Programmes and Professor of Theology at St Michael’s College, Toronto.

• Fr Stjepan Krasic has been elected as a member of the International Academy of Engineering

The Croatian Dominican, fr Stjepan Krasic has been unanimously elected as a member of the International Academy of Engineering on the 22nd of October 2015 at the 26th Danube Adria Association for Automation and Manufacturing International Symposium and the 4th DAAAM International Doctoral School of the University of Zadar, Croatia. In the presence of representatives of several national and international academic institutions, the new members of the Academy were elected from different countries, including fr Stjepan, the only cleric.



Unlike the other members who were elected based on their distinguished academic work in engineering and technology, fr Stjepan was honoured because of his distinguished studies in the Humanities which has uncovered many hitherto unknown aspects of the history of engineering and technology.

At the end of the ceremony, fr Stjepan gave the keynote address in Latin on the significance of technology on the human life. In his address, he underlined the positive and negative aspects of technology, stressed on the importance of responsibility in its usage and affirmed the primacy of ethics over technology. His address elicited the enthusiasm of those present because of the language which awakened the two millennia old Western culture and science.

Fr Stjepan was a professor of Church History at the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) Rome for over 35years. At present, he lives at Dubrovnik (Croatia) as a professor emeritus of Dubrovnik International University.

• **Breaking the link between minerals and armed conflicts: a mandatory European regulation is necessary!**

Position statement adopted by European Commissions for Justice and Peace

In many areas of the world marked by conflict, such as the DRC, Colombia, Myanmar and Central Africa, the extraction and trade of natural resources allows many armed groups, which are guilty of perpetrating atrocities against the local populations, to finance their acts of violence and destabilisation. By obtaining resources from these conflict or high risk zones, European companies are likely to be fuelling violence which undermines human rights, peace and development. It is in this way that blood minerals find their way into our computers, our telephones, our cars and other everyday products.

We would like to refer to the words expressed by Pope Francis whilst speaking on 17 July 2015 in the margins of a meeting with experts and investors in the mining sector in favour of a radical paradigm shift. The Pope reminded us that “minerals and, in general, the wealth contained in the earth, the soil and subsoil, constitute a precious gift of God, which humanity has been using for thousands of years”.

Drawing upon his recent encyclical on environmental protection, *Laudato Si'*, the Pope believes that a truly judicious exploitation of the earth's wealth is one which takes into account economic imperatives, social justice and environmental protection. The Pope emphasises that “to this change a contribution can be made by the governments of the home countries of multinational companies and of those in which they operate, by businesses and investors, by the local authorities who oversee mining operations, by workers and their representatives, by international supply chains with their various intermediaries and those who operate in the markets of these materials, and by the consumers of goods for whose production the minerals are required. All these people are called upon to adopt conduct inspired by the fact that we constitute a single human family”.

On 20 May 2015, the European Parliament voted in favour of a regulation which is designed to require European companies which import tin, tungsten, tantalum and gold, in either raw or processed forms, to ensure that they act responsibly when sourcing these minerals. This is a victory in the fight against the massive violations of human rights, although it still has to be confirmed through the dialogue process with the Member States.

In this way, the European Parliament is recommending the adoption of due diligence practices which require companies to identify and to prevent risks throughout their entire supply chain. This should make it possible for companies to ensure that the minerals they purchase from their suppliers are not being used to finance armed groups. Whilst the Parliament is not claiming that its vote is sufficient to resolve conflicts on its own, it at least has the merit of making companies assume their share of the responsibility.

Putting ethical considerations before profit

A mandatory regulation is necessary to fight effectively against conflict minerals and the



terrifying atrocities which they fuel, as is the case in the east of the DRC. This approach is supported not only by Doctor Mukwege¹, winner of the Sakharov prize, but also by European investors² and 150 bishops from all over the world³.

One of the European Parliament's intentions in proposing this mandatory scheme is to enable our companies in Europe to place pressure on all of the upstream actors in the supply chain, such as the Asiatic smelters and refiners which sell their products on the European market, in order to persuade them to change their practices. The SMEs in Europe could also benefit from this leverage effect since they will be able to become part of responsible supply chains which have already been established by the larger consortia.

In order to be as complete as possible, the regulation should also envisage the introduction of "accompanying measures" to provide support to the local actors and to formalise the sector in order to improve the working conditions of the local, artisanal miners.

Can this really be compared to the "big, bad" Dodd Frank Act?

Many people have spoken out against this regulation, comparing it to the Dodd Frank Act, which is a piece of American legislation which, it has been claimed, has forced companies to seek their supplies from elsewhere outside of the Great Lakes area, thereby creating an embargo and depriving the local miners of a vital source of income.

However, the European proposal for legislation differs from the American legislation since it is not designed to introduce product labelling and is not aimed solely at the Congo, but rather at all at-risk regions. It is highly questionable whether the blame for the problems faced by the artisanal Congolese mining sector can be laid entirely at the door of the Dodd Frank Act, since it is impossible to isolate the effects of this legislation from the effects of other existing initiatives designed to introduce order into this sector. In fact, the difficulties related to access to the international market began following the decision taken by President Kabila to suspend activities for several months in 2010. Furthermore, since the Dodd Frank Act only entered into force at the beginning of 2013, it is too early to draw any definitive conclusions with regards to its impacts.

Creating clean supply chains

However it is true that the Dodd Frank Act is behind numerous projects designed to create "clean" supply chains in the Congo and real progress is being made in this regard. Proof of this is to be found in the fact that 129 mines have been certified as being "green" sites by the Congolese government. This certification attests to the fact that there are no armed groups, children or pregnant women on site.

Only a mandatory European scheme can have an effective influence on economic practices. The fact that the OECD guide on due diligence, which is not mandatory, is only applied by 4% of European companies is ample proof of the need for binding legislation and it is for this reason that the Member States must confirm the legislation as adopted by the European

1 <http://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2015/05/11/minerais-de-conflits-le...>

2 <http://www.eurosif.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Investor-EU-CM-stateme...>

3 <http://www.cidse.org/publications/business-and-human-rights/catholic-lea...>

Parliament.

Signatories representing European Commissions for Justice and Peace:

- Stefan Krummel (Austria)
- Pieter Vandecasteele (Flemish part of Belgium)
- Axelle Fischer (French-speaking part of Belgium)
- Denis Vienot (France)
- Gertrud Casel (Germany)
- Cecilia Taylor (Great-Britain)
- Mgr Jean-Claude Hollerich (Luxemburg)
- Pedro Vaz Pato (Portugal)
- Grace A. Buckley (Scotland)



- Wolfgang Bürgstein (Switzerland)
- Isabel Cuenca (Spain)
- Sr Madeleine Fredell (Sweden)
- Sebastiaan van der Zwaan (The Netherlands)

Other signatories :

Fr Mike Deeb OP, Dominican Order General Promoter of Justice and Peace

● **The Opening Mass of the Jubilee – “Go and Preach”**

The Opening Mass of the Jubilee at Santa Sabina, Rome – 7 November 2015.

After years of preparations, the Jubilee Door has finally been opened and the celebration of the Jubilee of the Eighth Centenary of the Order has commenced. It was a day of great joy for the multitude that gathered from different parts of the world at the Convent and Basilica of Santa Sabina for the Opening Mass.

The Mass was presided over by the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadore. He was assisted by fr Vivian Boland (his vicar), fr Michael Anthony Perry (Superior General of the Franciscans Friars Minor) and a large number of priests (Dominicans and non-Dominicans). The crowd which overwhelmed the preparations made by the organizers was made up of all branches of the Dominican family and friends.

The Liturgy was filled with unique and symbolic rites to mark the great event we are celebrating. At the beginning, there was the symbolic opening of the ancient door of the Basilica by fr Bruno in the name of the entire Dominican family signifying the opening of the Jubilee. Right there at the door, he lighted a large candle (like the Easter Candle) beautifully decorated with the symbols of the Jubilee. This reminds us of the fact that St Dominic has always been associated with light and he is known as the “Light of the Church” (Lumen Ecclesiae).

Therefore we begin this period of conversion and grace by rekindling that light as a sign of our personal and communal commitment to St Dominic and the mission that was entrusted to him. The light was carried in procession, with representatives of each branch of the Dominican family. They all processed as a family that has been on pilgrimage for 800 years and as members of the pilgrim Church with sure eschatological hope. A relic of St Dominic, his breviary and an icon of Our Lady was also carried during the procession. With these, we entered into the Jubilee year with all our heritage and traditions.

There is no greater thanksgiving for the 800 years of the Order than the Eucharist itself. During the offertory processions, Dominican nuns carried baskets of rosaries which were received and blessed by the Master of the Order. These rosaries will be used for the rosary pilgrimage round the 202 monasteries of the Order.

After communion, the Te Deum was intoned as a chant of thanksgiving to God. The faithful rose to their feet with lighted candles while the lights in the church were switched off. This was a sight to behold. The Salve Regina and the O Lumen were also chanted.

The usual dismissal, “The Mass is ended...”, was not said because the ceremony (the Jubilee) is not ended, rather it is just beginning and we (Dominicans) are being sent out once again to preach anew. How beautiful!

After the Eucharistic celebration, the crowd was hosted to light refreshment and a concert of music and videos. A great sense of joy and communion was palpable among those present as they greeted and hugged one another.

Checkout more picture of the Opening Mass of the Jubilee and here. –

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/orderofpreachers/albums>

● **Pope Francis to the Order, “Many thanks for all you do in and for the Church”**

After the Opening Mass of the Jubilee presided over by the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadore, the following day (Sunday, 8 November), the Dominican family gathered again at St Peter’s Square to pray the Angelus with Pope Francis.



From the window of the Apostolic Palace, the Holy Father first gave a short reflection based on the Gospel reading of the day (Mk 12:38-44), then he led the Angelus in Latin after which he gave his blessing. After the blessing he paid special tributes to certain groups at the square and saved the best for last. The final tribute went to the members of the Order of Preachers. In his own words,

“I greet the representatives of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) who, yesterday, commenced the eight centenary of their foundation, that the Lord may bless them abundantly on this occasion. And many thanks for all you do in and for the Church.”

At these words, there was a loud shout of joy from the crowd, mostly from the Dominicans in the crowd. With these words, our joy was complete. The celebration of the opening of the Jubilee was brought to its fulfilment for those present.

The Jubilee year has been launched not only in Santa Sabina but all over the Dominican world. There are already series of activities lined up throughout the year both at local and international levels. At the end of the Jubilee year, it is the hope of the Order that Pope Francis will celebrate the Closing Mass of the Jubilee on the 21st of January 2017.

Here are more pictures from the Papal Angelus at St Peter’s Square –

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/orderofpreachers/albums/72157661017213645>

● **Fr. Lorenzo Piretto OP, new bishop of Izmir, Turkey**

Pope Francis has appointed Rev. Dr. Father Lorenzo Piretto, OP, until now the superior of the convent of Izmir as the Archbishop of Izmir Turkey.

Fr. Lorenzo succeeds the Most Rev Ruggero Franceschini, OFM Cap whose resignation from the pastoral governance in accordance with Can. 401, no. 1 of Code of Canon Law, the pope accepted.

Fr. Piretto was born on December 15, 1942. He began his studies for the priesthood at Dominican Novitiate of Diesole in 1958, made his solemn vows on Dec 16 1963 and was ordained a priest on Aug 4, 1966.

He received a licentiate in theology in Bologna (1967) and a doctorate in philosophy at the University of Turin (1972).

Since then he has held various teaching assignments, first as a member of the Dominican Seminary of Chieri (TO) from 1967 to 1974, where he taught philosophy, and also at FIST Turin until 1982. At the same time (1976-1983) he was Novice Master in Chieri (TO). After his transfer to Turkey in 1983, he taught Italian from 1986 to 1996, and Latin (1992-2005) at Marmara University in Istanbul.

In his Congregation he was the Superior of the Convent of Istanbul (1987-2007) and Vicar Provincial for Turkey from 1993-2010; and from 2014 to now is the Superior of the Convent of Izmir.

He held pastoral assignments as the Parish of Sts. Peter and Paul in Istanbul (1988-2014) and Vicar General of the Apostolic Vicariate of Istanbul (1992-2014). For thirty years he was the Director of the Catholic monthly "Presence" in Istanbul.

Besides Italian, he speaks Turkish, English, French and German.

● **The Video Message of Fr Bruno Cadoré for the Opening of the Jubilee**

As we commence the celebration of the Jubilee of the 800th Anniversary of the confirmation of the Order (1216 - 2016), the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré sends his warmest greetings to all members of the Dominican family.

I am happy to greet all the brothers, sisters and lay Dominicans at this opening of this year of Jubilee of the Order of Preachers, and I am pleased to greet you all from the Basilica of Santa Sabina that was given to Saint Dominic.



Why? First, because Santa Sabina is the place where Dominic's preaching was rooted. He loved to pray here, he loved to contemplate, to speak to God. He loved to allow the mysteries of Christ's life to inhabit his own life. And then he also loved, they say, to speak about God to those he met, with whom he spoke about the Gospel of peace.

And here, in this conversation with God, he found the strength to go and preach again. For him to go and preach meant, as is shown in the mosaic of Santa Sabina, to preach unity: the unity between the circumcised and the gentiles, unity among those who believe and those who do not believe, the unity of all, because all are capable of the same communion.

That is what he wanted to announce. He found the conviction for this in his vision of Peter and Paul: Paul gives him the scriptures, the revelation, the unity of God's plan, and Peter gives him the pilgrim's staff so he could go forth. So he goes and opens the door!

This is what the Jubilee of the Order is about. He opens the door, and then he looks at the door, and he sees the first representation of the crucifixion. To preach the Gospel of peace is to preach the life given in abundance by a crucified Messiah. Then he goes and he joins all those who, beginning from Christ, have preached this.

The motto for the Jubilee is "Go and preach!"

● **PRIESTLY FRATERNITY OF SAINT DOMINIC IN SPAIN**

A meeting was held in Caleruega from 19 to 22 of October, 2015, to start and establish the Priestly Fraternity of St. Dominic in Spain.

After a long period of time pursuing the idea, this became a reality, which already exists in other countries and provinces of the Order.

Up to the reform brought by the Second Vatican Council, including also religious orders and congregations, priests who wanted to link with the charism of a particular religious family did so through the respective lay associations or fraternities. After the Council, the reform of the Rule of these fraternities took place, thus creating specifically priestly fraternities

In recent years, provincial promoters of the lay fraternities have tried to collect data and contact priests who are connected with the Order in different places. The commission of the Dominican Family for the friars in Spain finally organized the first meeting or encounter of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Dominic in our provinces.

As we said earlier, this meeting was held in Caleruega, in the cradle of Our Father Saint Dominic, from October 19 to 22. Six priests together with fr. Óscar Jesús Fernández and fr. Juan Carlos Cordero attended said meeting. Three others informed previously that they could not make it to the meeting this time. The Priestly Fraternity already established will keep in touch with some others who may also be welcomed as members.

The veteran is D. Jorge Rodríguez, priest of Gran Canaria, who made his profession in 2001, and has participated in several meetings through these years. The other five are: D. José María Vázquez, D. Carmelo de Lara, D. Amadeo Romá, D. Esteban García and D. Manuel Rodríguez, who belong to the Dioceses of Tui-Vigo, Albacete, Valencia, Logroño and Madrid, respectively. Their ages range from 45 to 74 years.

In addition to the presentation in which each shared his experience and expectations, there was time for shared prayer, personal reflection, relaxed living together, and the visit to the Dominican places in Caleruega.

Several reflections supported the meeting: the elements of the Dominican charism presented by fr. Juan Carlos Cordero; preaching in the project of Saint Dominic, by fr. Óscar Jesús Fernández; the talk of D. Jorge Rodríguez on his personal experience and on the Rule of the Priestly Fraternities, and the last lecture by fr. Javier Carballo on spirituality and organization of the Order.



The celebration of the Rite of Admission to the Priestly Fraternity took place on October 21, Wednesday. Fr. Javier Carballo, as President of the JIP and on behalf of the other provincials of Aragon, Andalucia and the Prior Regional of the Rosario, presided over the Eucharist and received the brother priests into the new Dominican branch and thus the Priestly Fraternity of St. Dominic in Spain was inaugurated. The whole community of Friars of Caleruega joined in the celebration of the Eucharist. As part of the rite of admission to and initiation of the novitiate, a Dominican Cross and the Rule of the Fraternities was given to each. It was a simple, emotional and especially significant celebration for the five priests incorporated into the Dominican Family.

The meeting ended on October 22, but not before celebrating with the contemplative Dominicans. This meeting with our nuns was another opportunity for the new members of the Priestly Fraternity to feel more welcomed and integrated into the order, and partakers of the common charism of preaching the Gospel we are called to intensify all together through the Jubilee Year which is about to start.

We give thanks to God and to these brother priests for the step they have given to join the sons and daughters of St. Dominic, with the desire to continue the mission of preaching the Good News in brotherhood and family. After a year of novitiate, and according to their Rule, they may make their Profession. We hope that from now on more priests, who may wish to live their own ministerial vocation within the framework of the new fraternity that has just been born, and in the bosom of the Dominican Family.

• **New Tech Reveals St. Martin de Porres's True Face**

A team of researchers using 3D technology reconstructed the Black saint's face, and found it strikingly similar to the depiction of unknown Peruvian artists from his time.

A new reconstruction of the face of St. Martin de Porres reveals the face of the Dominican brother as he was in life, as well as his physical suffering: the saint had trouble eating toward the end of his life, due to the fact that he was missing most of his teeth.

When St. Martin died, he had only two teeth left, and would have had great difficulty chewing, said Dr. Paulo Miamoto, pointing to the distortions in the saint's upper jaw.

Miamoto was part of an anthropology and dentistry group that spoke at a Nov. 3 presentation on the reconstructed face of the Peruvian saint.

The presentation coincided with the unveiling of the face, constructed by a team of specialists from research based on the saint's skull.

Thousands of the faithful packed the Basilica of the Most Holy Rosary in Lima for the event.

A Solemn Mass was celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Raúl Antonio Chau of Lima, and concelebrated by Dominican priests. In the homily, the bishop emphasized St. Martin's humble service and recalled the words of St. John XXIII, who called him "Martin of Charity" at his canonization Mass.

Once the Eucharistic celebration was over, Father Luis Ramírez, prior of St. Dominic Convent where Martin lived, introduced the specialists from the NGO Ebrafol, a Brazilian forensic anthropology and dentistry team that headed up the study.

The specialists gave details on how they were able to reconstruct through digital 3D imaging the face of the famed Black saint.

For his part, 3D designer Cicero Moraes explained that when he made the graphic representation of the saint's face, the result coincided closely with an old painting and a statue of the saint by unknown artists that are kept at St. Dominic's convent.



The research on the project was a collaborative effort between the NGO Ebrafol, St. Dominic's Convent and the universities of St. Martin de Porres and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega in Peru. The group has previously recreated and unveiled the faces of St. Rose of Lima and St. Juan Macías.

The son of a Spanish nobleman and a black slave woman, St. Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru in 1579. A talented medical apprentice, he sought to enter the Dominican Order, but was initially prevented from becoming a religious brother due to a Peruvian law at the time that prevented people considered of "mixed race" from joining religious orders.

Instead, he lived with the community and did manual work, earning the nickname "the saint of the broom" for his diligence, and care in cleaning the Dominicans' quarters. Eventually, he was permitted to join the order despite the Peruvian law, and he worked with the sick in the infirmary.

• **On the run from ISIS: Stories from Iraq**

ERBIL, Iraq—The murderous advance of the Islamic State has forced more than 1.7 million people in Iraq from their homes. The displaced come from various religious, ethnic and economic backgrounds — suggesting that this is still a diverse country, despite years of war and bloodshed.

Here are some of the stories from those who recently had to flee their homes.

A Dominican Sister

"We had only one choice: face death or leave," says Sister Luma, a nun of the Dominican order who left her hometown of Qaraqosh, Iraq's largest Christian town, in August — one of roughly 50,000 Christians who fled ISIS's advance on the ancient town.

Shortly before midnight, she and 35 other nuns packed into a few cars and drove to a convent in Ainkawa, a town in the Kurdish region of Iraq, bringing with them a 10-year-old girl from the church's orphanage.

This isn't the first time Luma has been displaced. In June, she fled ISIS's advance on nearby Mosul.

A graduate from the University of Notre Dame, where she received her Ph.D. in Biblical Studies, and from Chicago's Catholic Theological Union — where she discovered her love for brownies and the Field Museum of Natural History — Luma left behind her beloved library along with the church's treasured archives, some dating back to the 11th century.

Luma has sought solace in the Book of Micah. "People will use hammers to turn their swords into ploughs," she reads from her copy of the Bible. "They will turn their spears into tools to cut plants...Everyone will sit under his own vine and his own fig tree, and nobody will make them afraid any longer."

A Survivor

"I stood up and saw dead bodies everywhere," said 17-year-old Khidir. "But I didn't feel fear — I had to move fast."

Earlier that day in August, masked ISIS militants had stormed his village, ordering hundreds to gather in the only school.

Khidir's cousin told him not to worry. But soon, Khidir and twenty other men, including his cousin, were packed into a Kia truck and driven to the middle of a field. They were blindfolded and forced onto their knees. As the ISIS militants opened fire, Khidir thought he had come to the end of his life.

He heard his cousin scream out as he was hit and then felt a blazing hot prick on his own neck. But the bullet had just nicked him and Khidir, who had fallen to the ground, pretended to be dead until the assassins left.

Only one other man survived the firing squad and together they made their way to the Kurdish region of Iraq. While few bodies have been recovered from that fateful day, Khidir has accepted that his father and four



brothers were executed. Recently, one of his sisters managed to call him from ISIS captivity, telling him in a whisper that their mother and four other sisters were being held by the militants.

"I've accepted the pain and the unknown future," says Khidir as he sits on the dirt-floor of a tent in a refugee camp 100 miles from his ancestral village. He knows one thing, though: he will never go back; never set eyes on his home, the tomatoes he planted or the big tree in the garden he used to climb as a kid.

"Everyone is dead," he says. "There is no village."

A Calligrapher

Akram still remembers the day he realized he possessed a special gift, that he wasn't like the others.

"My fifth grade teacher held up a paper with my hand-writing and told the whole class I'd be a famous calligrapher," the 50-year-old recalls, his eyes sparkling with joy at the memory, even as he sits here, hunkered down in a tent in Iraq's Garmawa refugee camp.

Akram fled his hometown Tal Afar this summer as ISIS swept through northern Iraq. The clashes between the militants and the Iraqi military were fierce and, deciding he had to bring his family to safety, Akram got hold of a car and drove his wife and four children to Dohuk in Kurdistan.

Leaving, though, was painful as Akram had to leave precious work behind from his 30 year-career as an artist as well as his studio, anchored by a big oak table and a comfortable chair. Since coming to the camp, he has been unable to create, he says.

"I'm not in the right state of mind," he says.

A Mother

Sara sits in the banquet hall in Erbil where weddings used to take place. She is humming the name of her three-year-old daughter — Laila — over and over again.

She hasn't seen her daughter since an ISIS fighter grabbed Laila from her arms when the radical group overran her town of Qaraqosh in August.

Aware of the danger, Sara had sent her four other children away with another family days before as a precaution but had herself stayed behind with her blind husband and Laila.

"We thought it would all be over in a few days," she recalls. "We didn't think we needed to leave."

But on Aug. 22, the militants came to their home, telling them that all remaining Christian families would be escorted on a bus out of town. On the way, however, one of the militants took Laila and left as Sara was restrained by other fighters.

Since her youngest daughter was taken from her, she has been inconsolable.

"No one has hope in Iraq anymore," she mutters. "What is Iraq?"

A Graduate

The proudest moment in 28-year-old Ehab's life came while giving a presentation on Shakespeare to his English class at the University of Mosul.

The only college graduate in his family, Ehab had saved for years working odd jobs to pay for his studies.

"Hamlet is amazing," he says. "Tragedy, family and revenge — it's a familiar story for Arabs," he adds, with a laugh, sitting in his tent at the Baharka refugee camp in Erbil.



In June, ISIS fighters took huge swaths of territory in the western Anbar region where Ehab lived and so he fled to Mosul in northern Iraq. Soon after, however, ISIS took Mosul as well and the family fled to Erbil in the Kurdistan region.

For Ehab, an Iraqi of Palestinian origin, displacement has been a strong plot line in his family's history. His family, who originally hail from Haifa, has been in Iraq since the founding of Israel in 1948.

"This is our fate," he says, quoting the melancholy Dane: "To be or not to be?"

By Lauren Bohn, Lauren Bohn is a multimedia journalist based in Istanbul and a columnist for Foreign Policy Magazine. She's the co-founder of Foreign Policy Interrupted, an initiative dedicated to amplifying female voices in foreign policy.

• Fr Carlos Azpiroz Costa, OP is the Coadjutor Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Bahia Blanca, Argentina

Pope Francis has nominated fr Carlos Azpiroz Costa as the Coadjutor Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Bahia Blanca, Argentina. Fr Carlos is a son of the Province of Argentina and the former Master of the Order.

He was born on the 30th of October 1956 in Buenos Aires. He had his primary and secondary education at the school of the Marist Brothers and commenced the study of Civil Law at the Catholic University of Buenos Aires before joining the Order. He joined the Order in 1980 and made his simple profession of religious vows in 1981.

After his simple profession, he concluded his Civil Law studies and then studied Philosophy and Theology at the Institutional House of Studies of the Province at the Convent of Santo Domingo in Buenos Aires. He made his solemn profession in 1984. During these years, he taught Catechism at the Catholic School of the Dominican Sisters of Santo Rosario and at the Catholic University of Argentina. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1987 after which he continued his academic and pastoral apostolates.

In 1992, he obtained a Doctorate in Canon Law at the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome. Back in his Province, from 1992 to 1995, he was the Prior of the Novitiate Convent of San Martin de Porres at Mar del Plata while teaching at the University Fasta di Mar del Plata, the Catholic University of Argentina, Buenos Aires and the Centre of Studies and Reflection of the Diocese of Mar del Plata. In 1995, he was elected the Provincial Secretary and Prior of the Convent of San Pedro Telmo in Buenos Aires.

In 1997, he was nominated as the Procurator General of the Order. For this, he was assigned to the Convent of Santa Sabina, Rome where he was also the Rector of the Basilica of Santa Sabina and a lecturer at the Angelicum.

On the 14th of July 2001, he was elected the Master of the Order of Preachers at the General Chapter of Providence for 9 years. At the conclusion of his tenure as Master of the Order, he returned to his Province and he was elected as the Sub-prior of the Convent of Santissimo Rosario at San Miguel de Tucuman and then Prior of the Convent of Santa Catalina de Siena at Cordoba. Since February 2014, he has been the Superior of the Community of San Martin de Porres at Mar del Plata.

The Archdiocese of Bahia Blanca occupies much of the south of the Province of Buenos Aires in Argentina: Landmass - 82.625 sq/km, Population - 757.000, Catholics - 647.000, Priests - 83, Religious - 202, Permanent Deacons - 18).

His episcopal ordination will be held at Bahia Blanca on the 22nd of December 2015.



Official News

• **Invitation to the Episcopal Ordination of fr Carlos Azpiroz Costa**

The former Master of the Order, fr Carlos Alfonso Azpiroz Costa wishes to invite all brothers, sisters and lay members of the Dominican family to his Episcopal Ordination as the Coadjutor Archbishop of Bahía Blanca, Argentina.

The ordination will take place on Tuesday, the 22nd of December 2015 at Don Bosco College in the City of Bahía Blanca, Argentina. The Eucharistic celebration will begin at 19.00 hours.

The ordaining prelates will be:

Archbishop Guillermo José Garlatti, Archbishop of Bahía Blanca

Bishop Armando José María Rossi, OP, Bishop of Concepción

Bishop Luis Theodorico Stöckler, Emeritus Bishop of Quilmes

For all who cannot be physically present at the ordination, may we be in a communion of prayers with him as he takes this unique step.

• **Fr Javier Pose is the New Prior Provincial of Argentina**

The General Chapter of the Province of St Augustine, Argentina gathered in the city of Mar del Plata has elected fr Javier Maria Pose as their new Prior Provincial. The election has been confirmed by the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré and fr Javier has accepted.

He was born in the city of Mendoza in 1965. He entered the Order in 1983 and made his simple profession the following year. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1990. After his ordination, he studied Theology at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland.

He was prior of the Convent of the Holy Rosary in the city of Tucuman and Prior Provincial for two terms. Upon completing his tenure as Provincial in 2007, he was called upon to serve as the Socius of the Master for Latin America and the Caribbean. At the same time, he was the President of CIDALC (Interprovincial Conference of Dominicans of Latin America and the Caribbean), the body that brings together all Dominican entities in the region.

At the time of his election, fr Javier was serving a second term of 3years as Socius of the Master of the Order, having completed his first term of 6years. With this election, he will begin his third term as Prior Provincial of Argentina.

• **Fr Gianni Festa is the new Postulator General of the Order**

The Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré has appointed fr Gianni Festa as the new Postulator General of the Order for the next 6years. He is a son of the Province of St Dominic in Italy.

Fr Gianni was born in 1961 at Atesa, in the Province of Chieti, Italy. He entered the Order and made his simple profession of religious vows in 1982. At the completion of his basic studies and formation, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1988.

After his ordination, he did further studies in Church History in which he obtained a Doctorate. He also has a degree in Archival Studies and Palaeography. For many years, he has been the Director of the journal, “Sacra Doctrina”.

At the time of his appointment, he was the Prior of the Convent of Santa Maria delle grazie in Milan. He was also the Promoter of the Dominican Lay Fraternities in Milan.

The Office of the Postulator General of the Order is responsible for the promotion of the causes of beatification and canonization of members of the Order. In doing this, the office collaborates with the



Congregation for the Causes of Saints at the Holy See. Fr Gianni succeeds fr Vito Tomás Gomez Garcia who has just completed his tenure.

• **Witnesses of Compassion: Testimony of Brother Jacques AMBEC,OP**

Witnesses of Compassion: As Series on the Vocation of Cooperator Brothers in the Order

The vocation of the Cooperator brothers in the Order remains a vital part of our preaching mission. In a bid to promote this Vocation, we will be featuring the works of different Cooperator brothers from different parts of the world. We invite you to follow this series on the website of the Order (www.op.org) and on IDI.

This month, we are featuring:

Testimony of Brother Jacques AMBEC, a Dominican in the convent of Toulouse, responsible for the service of the gatehouse, for the pastoral care of the sick and elderly in the parish, for the service of the Gospel of the sick people and for SELF = Sida, Espérance, Lumière et Foi (SELF = Aids, Hope, Light and faith).

According Bro. Jacques;

It was in 1990 that Jacques one of my close friends came into direct contact with AIDS, the deadly virus that gradually degrades the body and makes infected persons vulnerable, persons with no immunity against other diseases. By regularly and faithful visits to Jacques at the hospital, I realised the distress and lowliness of other infected persons like him. Loneliness is the worst disease and that is not an understatement. We know our sick brothers and sisters need to be accompanied, respected, cherished and loved.

Jacques told me that he could fight if he was not alone and that is the reason for this battle that we have fought together, his wife, his children, his parents and his friends to accompany him to the end, sometimes in the midst of great difficulties, but we kept going because we were united with the power of prayer. I call it the sentiments of gentle compassion, that is, presence, patience, sharing and prayer (4 P). Jacques died of AIDS on the 4th of March 1994 in Toulouse. As he wished, we have published his testimony into a book: Jacques, le combat de la Vie, St Paul, Paris 1996.

A prayer group was born at his medical office where his wife was a general practitioner, a prayer group called, "Saint Dominic" and a second group was created and continues today, the group called "Saint Martin de Porres". This group has continued to support our work with the 22 persons who are infected with AIDS that we accompany today in the metropolitan city of Toulouse, to show them that love is stronger and bigger than their disease and that they can rely on SELF and on us. We work with other non-denominational groups in Toulouse and we participate in actions aimed at prevention among students in Catholic schools to awaken the sense of responsibility and sharing.

We also support humanitarian projects related to religious communities in Asia, in Togo and in Kenya with the nuns of Mother Teresa who help sick people often without care and proper medication.

In conclusion, I leave you with this message that I received three years ago from a young Muslim who was abandoned by his community. A few days before his death he left me these words which I will never forget; "Brother Jacques, we walk together towards the same light". I think he is in the light of the Lord.

I believe that it is our vocation as Cooperator brothers to be witnesses of compassion. We do not need to be priests to answer this mission of mercy, but we can work together with all our brothers. This is the holy preaching.

fr Jacques AMBEC



Calendar of the Master of the Order for December 2015

Nov 30-Dec 9: Canonical Visitation to Pakistan
11-13: Travel to Paris
16-18: Visitation to Equatorial Guinea
19-23: Visitation to Madagascar and La Reunion
25: Christmas celebration at Santa Sabina
Dec 27-Jan 4, 2016: Christmas Break

All articles are available on www.op.org