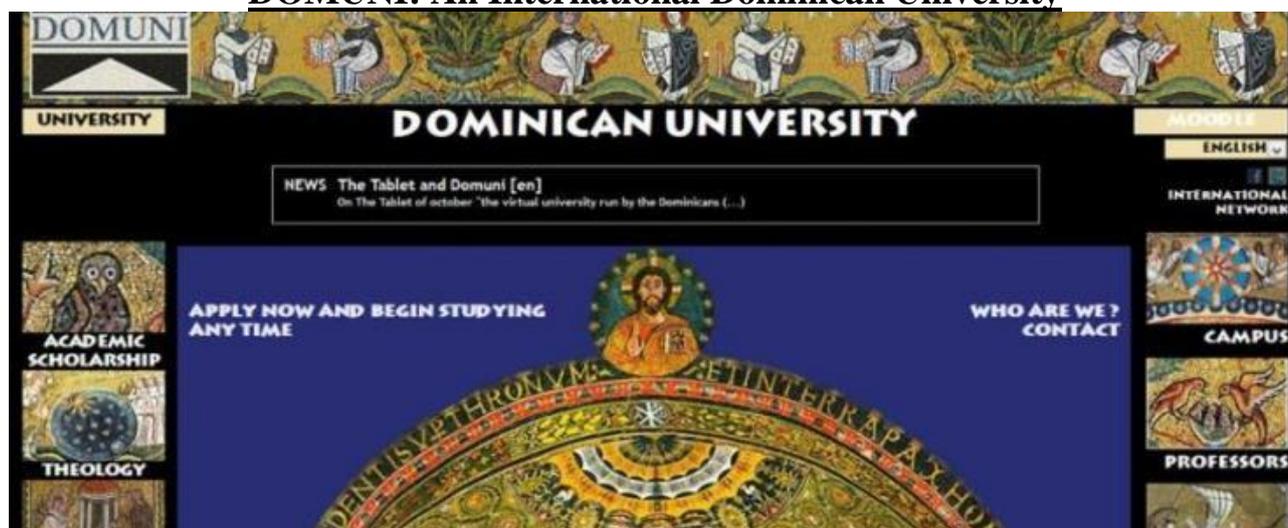




ORDER OF PREACHERS



DOMUNI: An International Dominican University



A quadrilingual university: French, Spanish, English and Arabic

Domuni has been delivering its academic programmes in French and Spanish since January 2013. The English track was launched on 15 October 2013 and the development of courses in Arabic is also in progress. 100 professors

The backbone of Domuni University is its truly international faculty, a network of professors from Europe, America, Africa and Asia. Most of the professors are Dominicans who are engaged as lecturers around the world: in Baghdad, Washington, Paris, Rome, Brussels, Dublin, Toulouse, Toronto, Cambridge, Lyon ... in Haiti or Africa.

2,000 students

Students from all continents are currently enrolled at this quadrilingual university. They live in various countries, including Japan, Tajikistan, Haiti, the United Arab Emirates and Bangladesh. The number of students has grown significantly since the university's founding in 1998. Almost 1,000 students are enrolled in one of Domuni's degree programmes, while the same number again is studying for the purpose of ongoing personal development.

The university delivers 100% of its courses and programmes online. This gives everyone, regardless of their personal or professional circumstances, the opportunity to study for canonical or civil degrees. Registered candidates are provided with access credentials to Domuni's e-learning platform, which is powered by Moodle. Upon entering, they are invited to introduce themselves and get to know their fellow students and professors. This will actively engage them in building a community within this virtual university environment.

A study and research community

Students access the courses for which they are registered through Moodle. On this e-learning platform, they can read and print their course materials, take quizzes, submit assignments, and contact their tutors with any pedagogical queries that they may have. Semester final exams are offered in an exam centre near the student's own home. There are no residency requirements: students can pursue their studies from anywhere in the world.



The degrees in philosophy, theology, religious sciences and social studies are awarded by Domuni University and issued in association with the Pontifical University of St Thomas (Angelicum), Rome and the University of Lorraine (French State).

Recognition

Enrolling in an online programme with Domuni University allows students to study from home and at their own pace. It is particularly suitable for those who have never had the opportunity to study, be it because of their busy schedules or long distances to traditional universities. Domuni University wishes to thank the entire faculty for their time and involvement. Their dedication makes this new evangelization possible.

Fr Michel Van Aerde op
General Director
michel.vanaerde@domuni.eu

A Message from the Director of the Spanish Speaking Section

Domuni has reached another significant milestone in its development by becoming an international, multi-lingual Dominican university. Its academic staff, including our faculty, are now able to teach in virtually every part of the world, relating across cultures and nationalities. We value the cultural diversity and the plurality of languages.

Following the formation of the Spanish-speaking section of Domuni, the Religious Sciences curriculum was successfully incorporated and the Institute of Religious Sciences now offers both bachelor and master degree programmes. In the coming months, we will be expanding our academic catalogue by introducing specialist courses in philosophy and theology. We are also planning to offer courses in Dominican spirituality.

Spanish-speaking students come from very diverse backgrounds. The majority of our students are from Spain, Latin America (Peru, Colombia, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, etc.), and the United States. However, students from the Maghreb (Morocco and Western Sahara) are also studying with us. There are plans to reach out to the hispanic population of Equatorial Guinea. Finally, and given the proximity of the Portuguese language, it is also our intention to enrol students from Portuguese-speaking countries, especially Portugal, Brazil and Angola.

Fr Jesus Diaz Sariego op
jdsariego@dominicos.org

A Message from the Administrator of the English Speaking Section

You are committed to the people you serve, people with hopes and dreams. But you might feel that you are not the right person to help them achieve their academic dreams. So how can you steer them in the right direction? How can you help them live out their dreams? How can you bring them to turn their hopes for a good university education into reality?

Introduce them to Domuni! We have an extensive range of courses and academic degree programmes featuring rich content that is based on solid theology --- the Dominican way. At Domuni, education starts with the premise that our students have the potential to do something extraordinary with their lives and for the Church. And Domuni surrounds them with opportunities to tap their potential to the fullest. This fantastic opportunity is now available to English-speaking students, too.

People around the world, from Antigua to the US Virgin Islands, can begin enrolling today. Our dedicated professors, over 70% of whom are Dominicans, offer a theological education that is marked by faith seeking understanding. Our advanced technology has been proven to the French and Spanish-speaking people time and again. And we have been getting English enquiries for what seems like ages. "When can we enrol?" --- "We have been waiting for this opportunity for so long."



The waiting is over. The people you are in contact with every day will be delighted to know that they can apply to Domuni now and begin their studies right away. Please share this great opportunity with them. You don't want to leave them out in the cold.

Fr Raphael Beuthner
beuthner@domuni.eu

A Message from the Director of the French Speaking Section

With the Internet, instead of having people “going” to the University we have the University “going” to the people! Domuni-FR welcomes 850 regular students, preparing an academic degree (canonical and/or civil) in Catholic Theology, Philosophy or in Social Sciences and more than 1,000 free students who follow courses without validating them.

They all study at home, according to their own rhythm. They are connected on a portal for teaching, they download their courses, prepare their home works and program their exams. The teacher answers to the questions raised during the courses forums, the tutor follows the personal progresses of the student, and is available for difficulty in the methodology -or other- if any.

Domuni---FR welcomes francophone students (born in France or having acquired citizenship) dispatched in more than 40 countries, 60% are in Europe (France-Belgium-Switzerland) and 40% are in Africa, Caribbean or in non-francophone areas. In this way expatriated persons can take advantage of this opportunity and follow their curriculum from Italy, Dubai, China... This diversity is the great wealth of the Domuni University, and its local anchorage thanks to the Dominican network.

Each student represents a world, a way of thinking and living, costumes, rules, a social organization, economic stakes, spirituality... in the heart of the universal Catholic Church. The objective of the training is to offer a progressive autonomy to each student, together with the means to assimilate and then convey in his/her turn, like a link of a huge chain.

Claire Marie Monnet op
monne@domuni.eu

For more information, please visit <http://www.domuni.eu>

The Dominican Brothers in Malabo Celebrate their Feast Day

On Sunday, the 15th of December 2013, the brothers and the entire Christian community of "Parroquia Santa Maravillas de Jesús" celebrated the feast day of their parish. The solemn Mass was presided over by Fr Francisco Panera, parish priest. He was surrounded by brothers Roberto Okón Pocó, superior of the community; Gabriel Samba, Socius of the Master of the Order of Preachers for Africa in a fraternal visit to Malabo and Fr Benjamin Bosega Barila, Rector of the Minor Seminary of Malabo. Several religious and nearly a thousand worshipers took part in this celebration during which thirty children made their First Communion. Other priests (Claretians, Verbum Dei, pastor of the Cathedral) joined the party after Masses in their own parishes.

For the new Dominican foundation in Malabo, Santa Maravillas de Jesús parish is a good place for visibility and integration into the local Church. It is a privileged place for preaching, apostolic outreach, hospitality and fellowship, especially for the many Christian immigrants in this country experiencing an oil boom. The welcome of the stranger, their protection, the recognition of their dignity and their rights in a country where foreigners especially Africans are not always welcome, are important aspects of pastoral care of our brothers in Malabo.

Blessed on the 12th of December 2012 by His Grace, Ildefonso Obama Obono, Archbishop of Malabo, Santa Maravillas de Jesús is one of the most beautiful and vibrant parishes of Malabo. It is located in Perez neighborhood, not far from the big Malabo stadium that hosted the 2012 CAN. The enormous extent of its territory is a major pastoral challenge for the brothers who are only two, particularly with regards to the many Pentecostal churches that abound in the area and have taken many faithful. The two Sunday Masses,



one at 10:00 am (always full) and the second in the evening (uncrowded) are not sufficient to meet this challenge.

However, each year the parish registers around 400 baptisms and 150 first communions. Every three months there is baptism of infants of one to two years. However, marriages are rare. In 2013 there was only one. Youth and adults are involved in apostolate movements: Legion of Mary, Carmelite group, choirs, etc. The brothers are involved in catechesis, biblical and Christian formation of adults, particularly with the School of Theology for the laity which they are responsible, preaching retreats and recollections in religious communities.

The foundation of Equatorial Guinea is a mission of the Dominican province of Spain in collaboration with the Dominican province of Colombia. On March 1, 2009 the first two brothers from the Province of Spain arrived in Malabo. They were joined by three brothers from Colombia although all three have now returned, but with the hope that others will soon come to join the small community of Malabo that is making its merry way with courage and hope. The community is also ready to welcome brothers from Africa, even for a short stay, in order to strengthen links and collaboration with the Inter-Africa (IAOP).

Fr. Gabriel Samba, OP

The Dominican community of Bangui reduced to two brothers

They are only two brothers in the community of Bangui in the Central African Republic: brothers Richard Appora and Justin Ndéma. The third brother, Pierre-Chrysologue Toulou is extraconventum, he lives at the Major Seminary in Bangui. The other two brothers who make up the community: Ilitch Ewolo and Ponce Nérée Miantoko left Bangui on Saturday morning January 11, 2014. They went to Cameroon for a breather: Ilitch in Douala and Ponce in Yaoundé.

It is hard to leave, even if for a moment, because we leave behind, the other brothers of the community, parents, friends and the people of God who so need our presence in this particularly difficult time. It is also hard to stay in this difficult situation, living under tension in insecurity and uncertainty. This is the situation of the community of Bangui, a tiny community, new and very fragile. The house was just opened in September 2012, and the brothers were quickly integrated into the local Church. They teach at the Major Seminary, they preach retreats and recollections. They are building the community chapel. Two brothers are gone, and the others have remained in solidarity with parents, families, friends and all the Central African people. It is a Gospel testimony, with the courage of martyrdom.

From afar we do not realize the reality in which our brothers and sisters live, because nobody tells us about it, and what the media says is sometimes far from the reality on site. Many of our brothers have lost their parents: the mother of Br Octave Lionel was shot dead at home, the father of Br Romaric Mandaba was killed at his home with knives, that of Br Merlin Cyriaque Lambaty-Koy was kidnapped and murdered, he was found dead. The uncle of Br Leon Cyrille Keressé was murdered ... and the list is far from exhaustive. Houses and property were looted and vandalized, churches and mosques desecrated. Thousands of people are still displaced and live in dire conditions in churches, mosques, at the airport.

On the 27th of November 2013, the Master of the Order, Br Bruno Cadoré gave me this message for our brothers and sisters in Bangui: « I think especially of the brothers and sisters who are in the Central African Republic and of the challenges that people are facing, the extreme difficulty of the uncertainty and the risks of violence. I am sure that the Dominican family brings this concern into the presence of God, asking Him at this time that leads us to the Nativity, "to guide our feet into the way of peace." I am particularly pleased to know that our brothers are present with the people of this country, thinking of them and all their loved ones.»

This Sunday, January 12 the situation was calm unlike yesterday and the night that followed the announcement of the resignation of the transitional president, Michel Djotodja, despite the jubilation expressed by the population. The brothers celebrated the Mass of the Baptism of the Lord with a large congregation. Our Dominican sisters are well. The two younger sisters of St Thomas Aquinas (PK12) who have sought refuge in the parish for safety reasons returned to their community 3 days ago. The DMA (Combattant) are doing well and are preparing to go to Mbayiki for a solemn profession in Mbata. Br Toulou



went to his village in Mougoumba. Do not forget our brothers and sisters in our prayers. A short message or call would comfort them.

Fr. Gabriel Samba, OP

Fr Yousif Thomas Mirkis, OP is the New Archbishop of Kirkuk of the Chaldeans, Iraq

The Holy Father, Pope Francis has given his consent to the canonical election by the Synod of Bishops of the Chaldean Church of Fr Yousif Thomas Mirkis as the Auxiliary Bishop of the Patriarchate of Babylon of the Chaldeans and the Archbishop of Kirkuk

Fr Yousif Thomas Mirkis was born in Mosul, Iraq in 1949. He attended the Seminary of Saint Jean of Mosul and later continued his studies in France where he joined the Order. He made his first profession in the Order in 1975 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1980. He holds a Ph. D in Theology and the History of Religion from the University of Strasbourg and a Diploma in Ethnology from the University of Nanterre.

He is the co-founder of the faculty of philosophy and theology of the "Babel College" (1989), where he conducted studies from 1989 to 2001 and has been teaching since. In 2006 he founded the Academy for Human Sciences in Baghdad. He is a member of the Union of Iraqi journalists, the journalists of the third world with headquarters in Berlin and Union of the Press (International Catholic Union of the Press).

He was the Superior of the Community of the Dominicans in Baghdad from 1994 to 2000, devoting the same time to the writing of books on Christian Education at the Ministry of Education. Since 1995, he has been the director of the magazine "Al-Al-Fiker Masihi" (the Christian Thought) and the publishing house "Al-Nasira."

At present he is Superior of the Community of the Dominicans in Baghdad. He speaks Arabic, French and English, knows Aramaic too.

New Dominican Foundation in Malabo: Vocations are blooming already

The presence and the preaching of the Dominicans friars in Malabo are already bearing fruits. Four years after their arrival, several young Guineans are interested in the Dominican life. Five have already joined the Order and are in initial formation in Spain: 2 students at the Studium of Valencia and 3 pre-novices are in the convent of Valladolid. On site in Malabo, seven young students aged between 21 and 28 years form the group of new aspirants.

On the occasion of the fraternal visit of Brother Gabriel Samba, Socius of the Master of the Order for Africa to Malabo, Brother Roberto Okón Pocó, Superior of the community and the Director of Vocations organized a meeting with the aspirants. The meeting was held on Saturday, December 14, 2013 in the morning at the community. Six of the seven candidates were present. A round table allowed everyone to introduce himself and share on how he met the Dominicans and what attracted him in the Order of Preachers. The parish, the teaching of Brother Roberto at Claret College and the National University of Equatorial Guinea, the preaching of the brothers were then mentioned. Others knew the Order through the Sisters (Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, for example).

The configuration of the group, the previous religious experiences of some candidates, the context of the foundation of Malabo and the current economic environment of Equatorial Guinea gave the opportunity to the Socius of the Master of the Order to focus his talk on the specificity of religious vocation and the Dominican life. He invited young people to understand the difference between being a diocesan priest and being a religious and missionary. He spoke of the Dominican vocation in relation to the vocation of cooperator brothers. He placed particular emphasis on the fundamentals of the Dominican life: regular life, community life, sharing of goods, obedience, study, apostolate and the mission ad gentes.

In a country that has experienced an oil boom, where young people have dreams and ambitions of a wealthy and independent life, it was important that candidates know that engaging in the Dominican religious life this means that they must be ready to leave their country, not only study outside of Guinea (not necessarily in Spain) but perhaps in other African countries, and also to go out of the country to work elsewhere, leaving



oil benefits, parents, friends etc. Finally, he explained the purpose of studies in the Order as a mission and not just the unbridled pursuit of diplomas.

Candidates asked interesting questions about Dominican places for formation in Africa, and learning foreign languages such as French and English. The meeting ended with a meal with the community.

The Dominicans arrived in Malabo on 1 March 2009. They are responsible for the parish of Santa Maravillas de Jesús and the School of Theology for the Laity. In the future, they will establish and operate a Catholic radio for the Diocese.

Br. Gabriel Samba, op

Msgr Yousif Mirkis, OP Speaks on the Chaldean Church

The community of Santa Sabina had the honour of receiving the Archbishop elect of Kirkuk, fr Yousif Thomas Mirkis, OP during his recent visit to Rome. While awaiting his episcopal ordination which will come up on the 24th of January 2014, he had a fraternal discussion with some of the brothers on his new appointment and the Archdiocese of Kirkuk of the Chaldeans.

According to him, Kirkuk, a city about 200 kilometres north of Bagdad, has a population of about 10,000 Chaldean Christians all spread out in 6 parishes with 6 priests. Having lived the Dominican life faithfully for 40 years, fr Yousif was surprised by the episcopal appointment. However, as one who has vowed and lived the life of obedience for the same period of time, he is at the service of the Church and seeks only the grace of the office.

There are about 500,000 Christians in Iraq, the rest of them are in the diaspora in different parts of the world, in the USA, Australia and some parts of Europe. Migration has always been a painful experience for Iraqi Christians. It has always been a last resort in the face of violence and persecutions and also a one-way ticket. Although most of them are not happy to leave Iraq, now it is almost impossible for them to return as much as they would want to.

As a country, Iraq is gradually appreciating and maturing in democracy since after the war. The government officially recognizes and encourages the Christians but the diplomatic red tapes and corruption is militating against the efforts. The country is relatively peaceful although there are still pockets of insurgencies and religious fanaticism which plays out sometimes in the form of kidnappings and bombings. Unfortunately, Christians are sometimes at the receiving end. This situation has made mission work very difficult in the country. As at now, only very few religious congregations are present in Iraq and the majority of them are women religious.

The Chaldean Church has a Seminary with about 25 Seminarians for all the Chaldean dioceses. This is grossly inadequate to sustain the Church. The strongest desire of Iraqi Christians, according to fr Yousif, is to live and practice their Christian faith in peace.

The Dominicans (brothers and sisters) have a good presence in Iraq compared to other religious congregations. The brothers have two communities in Iraq, one in Bagdad and the other in Mossoul with about eight brother altogether.

We continue to pray for Christians in Iraq and particularly our brother, fr Yousif.

Praedicare: St Dominic's Catholic Church, San Francisco

The Dominican friars of St. Dominic's Church in San Francisco have launched <http://blog.stdominics.org/Praedicare>, a new blog with homilies, essays about the faith, and reflections on the liturgy and Dominican spirituality. For more information, see the description below:

“Praedicare: Saint Dominic’s Catholic Church, San Francisco”, is the official blog of Saint Dominic’s Catholic Church in San Francisco, CA.



Our aim is to offer another platform to allow our parish community to know of the many events happening at our parish, including concerts, lectures and retreats. We also aim to offer theological reflections and insights from our clergy and staff.

The title of our blog, “Praedicare”, comes from the Latin word for “to preach” or “to teach”. One of the many mottos of the Order is “Laudare, Benedicare, Praedicare”, or “To praise, to bless, to preach”.

You will periodically see a number of series, including:

A Preacher’s Life – a regular series offering insights about Dominican Spirituality and how that is manifested in our parish.

Notes from RCIA – from the RCIA team, this regular series offers insights to common questions about the Catholic Faith

Source and Summit – a regular series about liturgy and the Mass

Plus, of course, insights and reflections of many things happening in our world and culture.

What is Earth asking of the Order?

When, and how, will we reach the tipping point?

If you are a regular reader of DomLife, you are well aware that since September a series of articles, entitled “What is Earth asking of the Order,” has been appearing in each issue. They have been written by a cross section of people. Each article has been better than the last. As I write these words, I wonder what is left to be said.

Shall I report on the most recent United Nations climate talks held in Poland, which according to the New York Times achieved “modest steps toward a global climate accord in 2015?” Or perhaps I should direct you to Billmoyers.com to view a recent, rare, and moving television interview as Bill talks to visionary, author, and farmer Wendell Berry to discuss a sensible, but no-compromise plan to save the Earth. Then again, a summary of the most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Global Climate Change, accompanied by a review of statements by the world’s religious leaders encouraging action to mitigate global climate change, might prove helpful.

As I ponder the above, it seems that, perhaps very much like previous authors, I am looking for that combination of information, insights, action, and in Wendell Berry’s case, poetry, that will create a tipping point for you the reader. It is widely known that a tipping point is simply an addition or increment that in itself might not seem extraordinary, but that unexpectedly, is just the amount of additional change that will lead to a big effect. In the butterfly effect of chaos theory, for example, it is the small flap of the butterfly’s wings that in time leads to unexpected and unpredictable results that could be considered a tipping point.

What if the tipping point, however, were no longer to be found merely in information, insights, action and even poetry? We do know after all, that global climate change has been called by many the most serious moral issue of our day. We do understand that though scientists are slow to link any particular storm to climate change, the typhoon which visited the Philippine Islands is part of a pattern of more severe storms, draught, and flooding associated with climate change. As we ponder the overall plight of the planet, we do hear Wendell Berry’s poetic verse ringing in our ears:

“There are no unsacred places; there are only sacred places and desecrated places.”

None of the above, however, seems to have led to that big effect which would have us—as a global community, to say nothing of an Order •—totally transformed in responding to what it is Earth is asking of all of us. The tipping point seems to be no longer found merely in information, insights, action and even poetry.



What if the tipping point is to be found also in silence? What if Earth is asking us—as its consciousness—to take all that has been written in these columns and so many other places, all that we know from additional sources, and be in silence with it all? What if Earth is asking us—as its consciousness—to, first of all, hold its suffering in silence? What if Earth is asking us—as its consciousness—to then transform in silence, the greed, ignorance and violence which has caused such wanton destruction of our Earth Mother with the love which has been planted in our hearts by Christ Jesus? What if something of the tipping point is to be found in this silence? What if Earth is asking the Order—as its collective consciousness—to allow the Word to be once again birthed from silence?

“When all things were wrapt in a profound silence, and night in her swift course was half spent, Your almighty Word, O Lord, leapt down from your Throne in Heaven.” (Christmas Liturgy).

At a recent conference in Cleveland entitled “Envisioning the Future with a Contemplative Heart,” Episcopal priest and hermit Cynthia Bourgeault conjectured that it was in just such silence that Jesus fashioned his response to the money changers in the temple. What if Earth is asking the Order—as its collective consciousness—to fashion regional, national and even international collective responses to global climate spinning out of control fashioned from/in the above silence?

Far from being an escape from, or an evasion of action, the silence would be the matrix from which we, grounded in the Divine energy embraced in the silence, might respond boldly and creatively to the cries of people and planet with a timing, precision and energy which would be impeccable, if not always victorious. What if this is what Earth is asking of the Order? What if this is what “Contemplate Aliis Tradere” looks like in the second decade of the 21st century?

By Margaret Galiardi, OP (Amityville)

Meeting of the Young Dominican Sisters of Europe

Happiness in Dominican preaching and life

From January 3 – 5, the young Dominican sisters of Europe gathered in Düsseldorf, Germany together with Sr. Else-Britt Nilsen, Coordinator for Dominican Sisters Europe and Fr. Vivian Boland, Vicar of the Master of the Order and Socius for Northwestern Europe and Canada.

The theme of the meeting was "Happiness in Dominican Preaching and Life" as exemplified by the lives of St. Dominic, St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Catherine of Siena. Discussions on the theme also revolved around the sisters' own call and mission in present day Europe.

The meeting was also a venue for the sisters from the different language zones to know one another better. There was also the opportunity to get to know Sr. Marie Therese Clement, International Coordinator of Dominican Sisters International.

The countries represented in the meeting were Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Croatia, Italy, Portugal, Norway, Ireland and France. The weekend's meeting which consisted of common study, prayer and socialization gave the sisters a better understanding of one another's situation and challenges and it paved the way for new collaboration.

See more photos here: <https://plus.google.com/117589968259981321217/posts>

TYPHOON SURVIVORS AND DOMINICAN FAMILY PHILIPPINES: THANK YOU TO ALL DONORS

DOMINICAN REPORT: What we saw, heard and touched

UPDATES OF OUR REHABILITATION AND LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS FOR THE TYPHOON SURVIVORS IN THE PHILIPPINES

January 2014

After Christmas and after New Year, together with other sisters and volunteers, we made an ocular visit to the places devastated by typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) to assess the kind of help we can offer the survivors. We went to Cebu, Tacloban, Leyte, Samar, Iloilo, Capiz and Antique. It took us several hours and days to travel by land and air to reach the different places and islands devastated by the typhoon. I have seen several photos



and videos in the newspapers, television and the internet of the destructions brought about by typhoon Haiyan and yet it was a different story when one is right in the midst of the devastation. When I saw what I saw, I felt so helpless, I said, what help can we offer, where can we begin, how and to whom. Everybody needs help! Yet at the sight of the magnitude of destruction I felt paralyzed and helpless. The situation is indeed terrible and pitiful. I thanked God I was not there... I don't know if I could have survived.

Last Jan 4, 2014 we had a meeting of the Dominican Family Justice, Peace and Care of Creation (JPCC) group with about 25 brothers, sisters and laity. We invited the CBCP Office on Women and other NGOs, Tabang Visayas and Visayan Forum that we were partnering with, since we need more hands, minds and resources to give impact to the lives of the survivors.

GUIUAN, SAMAR

Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) made its first landfall in the Philippines in Guiuan, Samar. Most people we talked to said that together with the typhoon was an earthquake. But there was no recorded earthquake on that day; we presumed that the wind was so strong and powerful that it almost shook the ground. We saw dead coconut trees either uprooted or headless everywhere, thousands upon thousands, mountains upon mountains. These trees are the main source of livelihood of the people in these places since most of them are farmers. They earn their living by making use of every part of the coconut trees; roots, trunks, leaves, etc. It will take 5 or more years for the farmers to harvest the products of coconut trees. We will provide help for the following: a) Coconut tree seedlings, b) Vegetable seedlings, c) Fertilizers.

ANIBONG, TACLOBAN

This is Anibong in Tacloban one of the places very badly damaged by typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) last Nov. 8. There were 5 or 7 big cargo ships that were powerfully tossed on top of the houses by both the wind and storm surge burying people alive (I really find this unimaginable). When we visited the place a child's corpse was found underneath the green ship (further end of the second photo) by workers who were trying to figure out how to put back to the sea those ships. Some dead bodies buried under these ships have not been recovered yet.

We have identified 58 families that we will help for the following: a) Materials to rebuild their house, b) Fishing boats and sari-sari store for livelihood.

BALASAN, ILOILO

This is in Balasan, Iloilo where a small community lives at the back of the school of the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary, which was also damaged. Most of the houses here were destroyed.

We were able to identify at least 32 families that needed help. We will provide help for the following: a) Materials to rebuild the houses, b) Livelihood programs for the families, c) Scholarship for girls vulnerable to human trafficking.

This is St. Anne Catholic School of the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary, Philippines. We have extended financial help to the congregation to help rebuild the school. The building is now reconstructed and students are back to school

ANTIQUÉ

We had a meeting with Fr. Edione and other leaders of the Social Action Center in Antique. Help was requested for 2 islands, Kulasi and Caluya where houses and their seaweeds livelihood were all destroyed by the typhoon. We could not reach these islands as they were quite far.

We will help the Social Action Center with the following: a) Materials to rebuild houses, b) 3-plot seaweeds garden, c) Poultry, or hog, or goat raising to identified families.

BUSUANGA, PALAWAN

Typhoon Haiyan made its last landfall in the Philippines in Busuanga Island in Palawan. We have Dominican Sisters who gave relief goods, food and water to the victims a week after the typhoon. Fr. Amurao, the Parish Priest, requested help for his Church and his parishioners.



We have started sending the following: a) G.I. corrugated sheets for the roof, b) Marine plywood to build fishing boats.

HELP TO DAMAGED CHURCHES

At Guiuan Church, cash donation to the parish priest. The Church totally destroyed, we had Sunday Mass outside of the Church. At Sapao Church, cash donation to the parish priest. The Church is now Roof-less and wall-less

AKLAN: Public school children with the classroom supplies they received. To the donors in chorus they said “We love you. Thank you very much.”

DIOCESE OF BORONGAN SAMAR

A chapel in Hernani, Diocese of Borongan, Samar was very badly hit by the storm surge. The people tried to put it up again using materials taken from the debris scattered everywhere.

After the meeting of the Parish Priests of the different chapels and churches together with the Bishop of the Diocese of Borongan, Samar they have identified their most immediate needs and they requested help for the following: a) musical instruments, b) vestments, c) vessels, d) altar linens, e) statues of Jesus, Mary and saints of their chapels.

GOODS SHARED TO THE TYPHOON SURVIVORS FROM DONATIONS RECEIVED

Distributing tarpaulins to put on top of roofless houses in Salcedo, Samar to temporarily shield them from rain and the sun. Sisters and volunteers packing and distributing relief goods, food and water to typhoon survivors in Cebu, Tacloban, Leyte, Samar, Iloilo, Capiz, Aklan, Antique and Palawan.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DOMINICAN FAMILY AFFECTED BY THE TYPHOON DAMAGED DOMINICAN SCHOOL BUILDING

1. Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines (Iloilo and Capiz)
2. Rosarian Dominican Sisters (Capiz)
3. Dominican Daughters of the Immaculate Mother (Bohol)

DAMAGED HOUSES OF THE DOMINICAN SISTERS

1. Dominican Sisters Daughters of the Most Holy Rosary of Pompeii (7 Sisters)
2. Congregation of the Daughters of St. Dominic (4 Sisters)
3. Dominican Sisters of Blessed Imelda (4 Sisters)
4. Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena (3 Sisters)
5. Dominican Daughters of the Immaculate Mother (1 Sister)
6. Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of Remedies (1 Sister)

REPORT PREPARED BY: Sr. Cecilia Espenilla, OP (DSI-Philippines JPCC CHAIR)

St Thomas Aquinas: Doctor of Humanity

Some years ago John Paul II suggested that St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) could rightly be called ‘doctor of humanity’. He is clearly a doctor of divinity the Pope said, but his greatness consists as much in what he says about the human as in what he says about God.

Aquinas is one of the foremost representatives of a Christian humanism that has always flourished in the Church. In his understanding of creation and of grace, he draws on the resources of philosophy as well as theology to re-think the terms in which biblical, Christian doctrine may be presented. He was able to develop a mysticism of creation itself, in which God is understood to be present not only in particular people, places, or experiences, but everywhere and always. As creator, God is mightily active ‘deep down things’, for if God were not constantly willing the world’s being, and empowering its activities, there would be nothing.

Creation itself then – the nature of things as we come to understand and appreciate them – is another book in which the mystery of God is intelligible to us, however dimly.



All creatures bear a trace of their Maker but humans are created in God's 'image and likeness'. This is seen, St Thomas says, in our intelligence, in our moral responsibility, and in our creativity. As 'participants in providence' we are God's partners in the unfolding of the world's history. No longer merely servants, we are brought into friendship with God through Christ and the Holy Spirit.

St Thomas is very much a saint for our times. Secular humanism fears that God is a threat to humanity, that men and women cannot be truly free until they shake off God. Christian humanism knows that the truth is directly contrary to this: Christ, who is the head of humanity, leads it towards its flourishing, not towards its destruction. Christ is our way to maturity, St Thomas says, the love-breathing Word from God who finally introduces us to ourselves.

St Thomas Aquinas was an intellectual. His business was texts and translations, arguments and ideas. He shows us that holiness is also about the mind. He shows us that 'mystery', far from bringing thinking to an end, invites it to continue forever. He teaches us that it is in the light of God's wisdom, as it is in the heat of God's love, that human beings come to their full flourishing.

You will find articles by VB on the thought of Thomas Aquinas [here](#) and [here](#).
fr Vivian Boland OP

Summa Theologiae Cake

As the entire Order in conjunction with the Universal Church celebrated the feast of one of its own, St Thomas Aquinas, the Priory of St Thomas Aquinas, Ibadan in the Province of Nigeria celebrated in a unique way. They had a lot to celebrate on that day.

Firstly, it was the feast day of St Thomas Aquinas, the patron saint of the priory which is the formation house of the province with over 60 brothers at different levels of their formation. To celebrate the feast, the community had the liturgical celebration in the morning which for them was a solemnity.

Secondly, the priory is host to the Dominican Institute, the institutional house of studies of the province. The institute takes care of the formation of the brothers and other religious (male and female) from other congregations. It is at an advanced stage of becoming a Dominican University. Following its tradition, the Dominican Institute had its Annual Aquinas Lecture. The lecture was delivered by one of the brothers, fr Dokun Oyeshola titled, "A Nigerian Dominican in A Secular University: Lessons and Challenges for the Proposed Dominican University". Fr Dokun is most apt for this lecture since he has been a lecturer for many years in one of the foremost national universities in Nigeria, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife.

Thirdly, the 28th of February, marks the first anniversary of the eternal call of fr Joseph Kenny. Fr Kenny who has been tagged "A True Son of Thomas Aquinas" passed away exactly a year ago on the feast day of St Thomas Aquinas. He had been the architect of the intellectual development of the Province of Nigeria. He has been involved in the foundation of the formation house, the Dominican Institute and the formation of every single brother in the province. The priory solemnly laid his tomb stone and also read an oration at his grave.

Finally, the priory had a banquet of food and drinks in the evening to sum up the entire celebration. The "Summa Cake" was unveiled by the prior, cut by a selection of the brothers and shared by all. The cake was designed by one of the brothers who has been a new discovery in the art of the baking and designing of cakes. The cake was perfectly designed such that it could easily be mistaken for the real thing. From the testimony of the brothers, the "Summa Cake" tasted very intellectual, heavenly and delicious at the same time. According to the Prior of the community, fr Dominic Mbomson, "the friars have studied the Summa, contemplated it, preached it, and now, they are going to consume it!". Another brother remarked that, after reading from the Summa for many years and been enriched by it, it was interesting to eat it and experience a different taste of it.

Friar Moses Ani, OP



“Dialogue as a Way for Preaching”

Journées Romaines Dominicaines (JRD) a gathering of Dominican women and men living in Muslim countries or working with Muslim communities elsewhere and

Justice, Peace and Care of Creation (JPCC) a quadrennial conference of the Promoters of Justice and Peace of the Asia-Pacific Region present;

“Dialogue as a Way for Preaching.”

A conference examining the role of interreligious dialogue in a world rife with fundamentalism and violence and also cooperation and mutuality

Process: The week together will be structured around conferences, reactors, panel, group-work and sharing. Major themes are: Fundamentalism and violence as realities of our world, The Word and the words of Dialogue and Dialogue as bridge-building towards peace.

Speakers include, Fr. John Prior, SVD, Heru Prakosa, SJ, Peter Phan etc.

Date : 11 -16 August, 2014.

Venue: CIPUTRA WORLD RESORT and HOTEL, Surabaya, Indonesia.

Language: English and French

Cost: The participants will be charged US 200 \$ for the whole session (6 days). We are also asking participants, as usual to pay a registration fee of US 135 \$ to cover additional costs. This is to be paid on arrival.

Please complete the form and send to Ms. Marie-Hélène Canale (francese@curia.op.org) on or before February 28, 2014.

For further details, contact:

JRD 2014, Convento di S. Sabina,
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Official News

Fr Benedikt Tomáš Mohelník has been re-elected as the Provincial of Bohemia

Gathered in the Convent of the Immaculate Conception in Olomouc, east of the Czech Republic, the capitular friars of the Province of Bohemia re-elected fr Benedikt Tomáš Mohelník as their Prior Provincial for the next 4years. His election has been confirmed by the Master of the Order and he has in turn accepted the election.

Fr Benedikt, who was born in 1970, entered the Order in 1989 and made his first religious profession of vows the following year. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1995. He is a Systematic Theologian and teaches at the Trappist Monastery at Novém Dvoře. He is also an Assistant Professor at the Department of Systematic Theology at the Catholic Theological Faculty (KTF UK), Prague. He has authored numerous textbooks, articles and translations of scientific texts.

Fr Edivaldo Antônio Dos Santos is the New Provincial of the Province of Brazil

Fr Edivaldo Antônio dos Santos, popularly known as “Frei Bruno” has been elected as the 5th Prior Provincial of the Province of Fr Bartholomew de las Casas, Brazil. His election has been confirmed by the



Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré and he has accepted the election and made the profession of faith. He succeeds fr Edmilson de Oliveira.

Frei Bruno was born in 1950. He made his first profession in the Order in 1978 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1981. After his ordination, he studied History at the Federal University of Goiás (UFG). He has taught Church History in several colleges.

In the Province, he has been in the Pastoral Ministry and also in formation. Before his election, he was the Regent of Studies of the Province while also caring for the pro-novices. He was also the Superior of the community at Curitiba and the Pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary of Bethlehem Parish.

Fr César Valero Bajo has been Appointed as the General Promoter of the Nuns

At the completed of the mandate of fr Brian J. Pierce who has been the General Promoter of the Nuns for the past 6years, the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré has appointed fr César Valero Bajo of the Province of the Holy Rosary as his successor.

Fr César was born at Valladolid, Spain in 1956. He began his Novitiate in the Order in the summer of 1973 and made his first profession of religious vows in 1974. In 1980, he was ordained to the priesthood after completing his basic studies in philosophy and theology in Madrid.

After his ordination, he studied Classical Languages at Salamanca and Pastoral Theology in Madrid where he was also engaged in academic and pastoral works. He was briefly in Hong Kong, the seat of the Holy Rosary Province, his home province. Back in Madrid, together with his pastoral work, fr César was heavily involved with the preaching of retreats and the pastoral care of the sick at the University Hospital of Mostoles, Madrid. At the same time, he was also the Director of the Centre for Communication and Preaching of the Provinces of Portugal and Spain established in 2008.

Fr Michael Deeb is the New Permanent Delegate of the Order to the UN

Like a number of religious organizations, the Dominican Order has a consultative status at the United Nations which entitles it to a Permanent Delegate who can rightly participate in debates and lobby for justice and peace everywhere especially in areas where our brothers live and work. All these is done mainly from the Geneva office of the UN but sometimes the Delegate of the Order also travels to the other UN offices in New York and Nairobi.

The Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré has just appointed fr Michael Christopher Deeb as the Permanent Delegate of the Order to the UN. He is from the General Vicariate of South Africa and he replaces fr Olivier Poquillon who has just concluded his mandate.

Fr Michael was born in 1953 in South Africa. He made his first profession in the Order in 1987 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1991. He has been involved with the mission of Justice and Peace for a very long time. He has been the Promoter of Justice and Peace in the General Vicariate of South Africa, the Coordinator of Justice and Peace of the Bishops Conference of South Africa and the Promoter of Justice and Peace for the Dominican Family in Africa. For eight years, he was the International Chaplain of the Catholic Students Movements. He speaks English and French fluently.

Unlike his predecessor, fr Michael will reside mainly in Santa Sabina, Rome, from where he will coordinate his activities mainly at Geneva and in any part of the world where such activities may take him.

Calendar of the Master of the Order for February 2014

24-Feb 1: Canonical Visitation to the Province of Malta

3-7: Visitation to Switzerland

8-21: Canonical Visitation to the Province of St Dominic in Italy

Feb 24-Mar 7: Plenary Meetings at Santa Sabina

All articles are available on www.op.org