

**ORDER OF PREACHERS****8th Triennial General Assembly of the Dominican Sisters International (DSI)**

28 April – 5 May 2016 at the Salesianum, Rome

Every three years members of Dominican Sisters International (Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and North America) meet to study and review their common mission in order to strengthen apostolic collaboration among themselves and other entities of the Dominican Family. This year, the Assembly will be held at the Salesianum in Rome where approximately 90 member Congregations, represented by their General Prioresses or delegates, will spend 6 days in prayer, reflection, celebration and discussion about the future of their common and collaborative preaching mission.

Under the theme "Perfectæ Caritatis: Sent to Preach the Gospel of Mercy," the Assembly will recognize of the 800th Jubilee of the Foundation of the Dominican Order, the 50th Anniversary of the publication of the document on Consecrated Life "Perfectæ Caritatis", and the 20th year of the existence of DSI. The main presenters at this occasion will be Sr. Barbara Reid, O.P. Vice President & Academic Dean, at Catholic Theological Union, USA, Fr. Bruno Cadoré, O.P., General Master of the Dominican Order and Prof. Dr. Myriam Wijlens, Chair of Canon Law at the University of Erfurt, Germany.

In addition to providing opportunity for networking and strengthening Dominican Family ties, DSI's Council, headed by the International Coordinator, Sr. Marie Therese Clement, O.P., anticipates that the Assembly will develop the vision and direction of DSI for the next three years.

NEW COORDINATING COUNCIL OF DSI

Sr Marie Therese Clement – International Coordinator

Sr Fuastina Jimoh – Regional Coordinator for Africa (re-elected)

Sr Noemi Zambano – Regional Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean

Sr Bernadette Kiley – Regional Coordinator for Asia Pacific

Sr Else Britt-Nilson – Regional Coordinator for Europe (re-elected)

Sr Gene Poore – Regional Coordinator for North America



• **The Death Of A Bishop: A Poem by Archbishop Robert Rivas, OP**

A Poem by Archbishop Robert Rivas, OP at the death of Bishop Vincent Darius, OP

In the early watches of the night
While our islands slept
The fourth Bishop of St. George's-in-Grenada
Quietly passed away
The news was sad news
"He didn't make it"
I lay motionless in my bed
My voice was a whisper
"May he rest in peace"
I was still in a daze as if in a trance
The call came at 1.37 a.m.
The mourning for the death of a Bishop had begun
I began to pray
De profundis clamavi Domine
Out of the depths I cry to you O God

He was tried and tested
A man of pain and sorrow
He hid his aches from passers-by
But in friendship revealed the unbearable
He wept and made me weep
Deep was his sorrow and distress
Quietly he offered his suffering
For healing in the Mystical Body
The Church he loved and cherished
As he began to make his journey home
He enjoyed the rapture of a contemplative
Alone with the Alone
With angels surrounding him
Protecting and comforting him
He spoke not a word

When Death appeared on the horizon
He closed his eyes
Not out of fear
But out of trust in God to save him
The appointed time had come
He was God's gift to us from a unique mould
Now he smiles upon us with new vision
Still shrewd and mysterious
A victorious conqueror of death
Crochu's pride
Its icon and inspiration
Lux perpetua luceat eis
Let perpetual light shine upon him

Let me mourn
The passing of a brother Bishop
How swiftly he slipped away
In tranquility and gentleness
Immolated on the altar of suffering
No last words or feelings of attachment

Just the memories of his hearty and joyful
laughter
He died in the simplicity of a friar
Having fought the good fight to the end
Having finished the course
Now he wears his laurels
In the bright and radiant light of glory

Let me weep
For a son of St. Dominic
For a confrere and a friend
For a man of the Word
Who drank from the fountain of the Word
For a brother with a charism to preach
With prophetic zeal and apostolic fidelity
He was courageous and adventurous
A servant of the Truth
In obedience and humility he bore his cross
Trusting God in the crucible of suffering
Now gaze with me in sorrow and in grief
No words for comfort
His passing hurts
Grace and time will soothe the pain
There's healing o'er the grave

A good Shepherd has gone
Grenada has lost a son
A guardian of the deposit of faith
It's first home-bred Roman Bishop
Tossed on a wild sea of anguish and desolation
He proved his integrity in loyal-trustful-
worthiness
With the strength to endure suffering
In poverty of spirit and a noble disposition
A good Bishop has gone home
Grenada mourns and heads bow low
The Church has learnt a lesson
In the transforming power of love
The strength of prayer to console
The grace of understanding to free and let go
The death of a Bishop leaves an empty See
With only the mortal remains interred for lasting
memory
Let the Rite of Christian Burial bring comfort
It's time to let him go
Brother Vincent
Son of St. Dominic
Servant of the Church
Requiescat in pace
Rest in peace!
+Robert Rivas O.P., April 29, 2016, Feast of St.
Catherine



• **A Dominican Documentary Wins International Awards**

South Texas Gentle Men of Steel - Los Padres

South Texas Gentle Men of Steel - Los Padres, a feature documentary, won the 2016 Silver Palm Award at the Mexico International Film Festival. The film was selected from among hundreds of entries from over 30 countries around the world as the competition's very best.

The documentary is about the end of an 82-year presence of Dominican friars in central South Texas, near Corpus Christi, with the departure in 2013 of the last two Dominican friars, Fathers Epifanio "Epi" Rodriguez, and Benito Retortillo. Dominican friars, headquartered in San Diego, had a powerful and lasting impact on the lives of many, especially on how their presence assisted many Mexican-Americans struggle against harsh racism, which bespeaks of the experiences of many in the Southwest.

This film has also won: Award of Merit, Documentary Feature, awarded by The Accolade Global Film Competition; Gold Award, Documentary Feature, Gold Award, Directing and Gold Award, Animated Visuals, International Independent Film Awards; Award of Excellence, History/Biographical, and Award of Merit Special Mention, The IndieFest Film Awards; Best Documentary, iHolly: Next Generation Independent Film Festival; and Gold Remi Award, WorldFest Houston.

"The documentary reflects a chapter of the ongoing universal story of people grappling to understand and accept each other as equals," says the film's writer-producer-director, Armando P. Ibañez, a friar of the Southern Province. "It is a chapter that traces its roots to the Spanish Conquista—a wrestling match of greed and brutality against equality and Salvation."

"These honors are a testament to a great crew." They are: Todd Schmidt of Slidell, LA, co-producer, editor, and special effects artist; Emmy Award Nominee, Joe O. Barrera of Los Angeles, music composer; Neil de la Peña of Los Angeles, Director of Photography; and Alan Jouet of New Orleans, audio engineer. The documentary is produced by Pluma Pictures, Inc., a non-profit film production company, and Prospect House Entertainment.

• **Dominican Sisters in Iraq prepare Iraqi refugee children for First Communion in Erbil camp**

On Friday, the first of three rounds of displaced Iraqi children made their First Communion in a refugee camp in Erbil, providing a silver lining to an otherwise bleak situation.

Out of the 5,500 people living in Erbil's Aishty 2 camp for the displaced, the majority – more than 2,000 – are children. Of these, 470 will make their First Communion in the coming weeks.

The number of children receiving the sacrament is up from last year's class, which numbered about 400. Since this year's number of recipients is so high, the children have been divided into three groups. The first, numbering around 175, made their First Communion on Friday, May 27.

Next Friday, June 3, a second group of about 145 will receive the Eucharist, while the third and final group of about 150 will receive the sacrament Friday, June 10.

All of the children are from the Syriac-Catholic rite, and most fled the city of Qaraqosh, the former Christian capitol of Iraqi Kurdistan, with their families when ISIS militants attacked the night of Aug. 6, 2014.

The May 27 Mass for the first group was celebrated by Syriac-Catholic Archbishop of Mosul Yohanno Petros Moshe in the camp's large, prefabricated church.

With a capacity for roughly 800 people, the church started out as a tent when the Christian refugees first poured into Erbil two years ago, asking for a place to pray. Now it serves as the main parish for the city's Aishty camp, which is the largest in Erbil and is divided into three smaller camps: Aishty 1, 2 and 3.



The majority of people in the camp are from Qaraqosh, which is where the former See of their Church had been located before ISIS' assault in 2014.

After moving the official See of their Church from Mosul to Qaraqosh several years ago due to both security concerns and the fact that most of the faithful resided in the city, Syriac-Catholics have now been left without any official diocese or headquarters whatsoever.

Now residing in a largely Chaldean dominated Erbil, they have been welcomed by the local Church and are working daily to keep up the spirits of their faithful, who face an uncertain future in the country.

For nearly 500 children to receive their First Communion in the camp is a sign of hope in a place where the flame of Christianity is flickering, growing dangerously closer to burning out.

Another sign of hope for Iraq's Christians was the March ordination of four deacons in the same prefabricated parish. They are now working with refugees around the clock, and will likely be ordained priests in a few months' time.

Three of the deacons, alongside the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena – who largely make up the backbone of Erbil's extensive displaced Christian community – have been in charge of teaching the children's catechesis in scripture and liturgy.

By Elise Harris

• **Croatia issues a postage stamp for the Jubilee of the Order**

To the honour of the 800th anniversary of the Dominican Order Croatian Post issued a stamp with the lunette of the portal of the Church of St. Dominic in Trogir. Depicted in the lunette is the most important Dominican in the history of the Order in Croatia, the bishop of Zagreb, blessed Augustin Kažotić (about 1260 – 1323).

Stamp has been issued in a 20-stamp sheet and there is also First Day Cover (FDC) issued by Croatian Post. Author: Dubravka Zglavnik Horvat, designer from Zagreb. Size: 35.50 x 29.82 mm. Date of issue: 24/5/2016

They came to Croatia very early; the first monastery was founded in Dubrovnik in 1225. This beautiful building, one of the most beautiful monuments of Dubrovnik and Croatia is still today their novices' house wherefrom they spread all over Croatia. In their monastery in Zadar Raymond from Capua founded the first Croatian university in 1396. Their mission in today's world has found an adequate field of work not only in traditional scientific and university environment but also in modern media.

Blessed Augustin Kažotić is among the most precious characters of Croatian history and culture. Born in Trogir in 1260, he died in Lucera, in south Italy in 1323. He joined the order in Split. He studied in Paris at Sorbonne, took his doctor's degree and worked as professor in France and Italy. From 1303 to 1322 he was the bishop of Zagreb. He reformed the Cathedral School and showed an unusual social sensitivity through his care of poor pupils and teachers. He is the first Croatian bishop – author of theological scripts. He has merits for the promotion of sacred music. Because of the great respect which he enjoyed, he was invited to be an arbitrator in gentry's disputes. He is the author of the "Zagreb liturgy" which survived until the days of Maksimilian Vrhovec. Due to his political position, always at the side of disempowered, he opposed the ruler Karl I. Robert. When he travelled to Avignon to complain about political situation to Pope John XXII, Karl forbade him to return to Croatia. Thus, he became a great model of political outcast. Pope made him a bishop in Lucera, where exceptionally favoured and esteemed as saint, he died in 1323. Although the day of his remembrance and the ceremony on that day were immediately entered into the calendar of the church in Zagreb, it was not until 1702 that he was beatified, which fact was to a high degree a merit of Italian church. He has not been proclaimed saint until today; our special care in recognising our own great national personalities was evident also in his case.

Still while he lived, blessed Augustin was believed to be a thaumaturgist. In the hymn dedicated to him the healing of Pope's hand through Augustin's touch is mentioned; numerous wonderful healings (which this too modest saint attributed to the healing power of lime leaves –very famous in this regard is the Kažotić lime in



Cernik); the appearance of well (long-forgotten spring in Old Vlaška Street in Zagreb); turning of meat into fish when feast was demanded; and many other very impressive examples.

The making of the lunette of the Dominican Church in Trogir was ordered in 1372 by the bishop Nikola Kažotić, Augustin's „brother“, most probably by belonging to the Dominican Order, but certainly also a descendant of the same family. The author of the lunette is a Venetian sculptor Nicola Dente. In the centre of the lunette is a figure of Madonna, on the right side next to her is Maria Magdalena, on the left is the blessed Augustin Kažotić (who in the Latin script under the depiction is already mentioned as saint), while next to him is a miniature figure of his sister Bitkula, the benefactor of the church.

A great European, the proponent of social and political justice, a scientist, an art admirer, one of those personalities through whom Croatia was acquiring its integrity, is the pride of the Dominican Order which can consider him as an ornament of its history. He is also the pride of entire Croatian history and culture in spite of how small contribution they have made to deserve him.

• **Living on Divine Providence: Bl. Hyacinth-Marie Cormier, OP**

Hyacinth-Marie Cormier, OP was born in Orleans in France on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1832. His father died while he was still very young; consequently, Henry and his only brother, Eugene, were taken by their mother to live with an uncle, who was a priest. Both Henry and Eugene entered the preparatory seminary, but a year later, Eugene died, leaving Henry devastated and alone.

After having completed his studies at the major seminary, Henry was ordained to the priesthood in 1856. He then seized the opportunity to fulfill a desire that had been growing for some time. Henri Lacordaire had been working tirelessly to restore the Dominican Order in France and had just opened a novitiate. Henry begged to be admitted.

Because of Henry's delicate appearance, there were doubts about whether he was fit to be a Dominican friar, but they admitted him to the novitiate and gave him the name Hyacinth. However, when the time came for his profession, doubts had been confirmed: Hyacinth had suffered several hemorrhages and, as the Order had already lost several promising friars to illness, the community was afraid to profess him. Lacordaire took Hyacinth to Rome to obtain a special dispensation from the pope. The pope responded that if Brother Hyacinth could go 30 days without a hemorrhage, he could be professed. Though he did all he could, he made it 29 days before falling seriously ill and was anointed. Finally, thinking he had only days left to live, he was allowed to make his profession. But to the surprise of all, he recovered and would go on to serve the Order vigorously for fifty years.

Father Cormier became instrumental in rebuilding the Order in France and reestablishing the primitive vigor of the entire Order, assuming positions of leadership and eventually elected Master of the Order. When he was elected Master in 1904, it became necessary to replace him in some of the work he had been doing. His brothers were surprised at the load he had been carrying: teaching and writing, as well as regular confessor to eight large convents and extraordinary confessor to several more. In spite of all the demands on his time, he spent several days in front of the Blessed Sacrament every day.

As Master of the Order, Father Cormier focused his attention first on the novices of the Order. He always loved the novices as the future of the Order and many of his writings were aimed at young people. He was gentle as a child in his manner, but firm and inflexible in matter of principles; he lived to the letter the policies he wanted followed in the Order. He also founded the Angelicum, the international house of studies for the Order in Rome and supported other educational projects.

Fr. Cormier died in Rome in 1916. In 1945 his cause for beatification was introduced. Examined during the course of this process were 171 printed works written by this zealous apostle. Excerpts from St. Dominic's Family by Sr. Mary Jean Dorcy, O.P.



• **'Keeping Faith with the Preachers' – New Book about the History of Dominican Sisters**

Sister Barbara Beaumont, O.P. in Fanjeaux, France has recently had her book published, *Keeping Faith with the Preachers: Pages from the History of Dominican Sisters*.

The book is “a collection of talks and conferences about the history of Dominican women given in various locations in recent years (USA, France, Belgium...)”

Contents

Introduction 1

The Coming of the Preachers 3

Historiography and Mythology 25

The Study of History in the Transmission of Dominican Values 39

Spiritual Values and Survival 59

Safeguarding the Tradition 77

Retrieving the Tradition 93

French Nuns in Belgian Exile 105

APPENDIX

Reflections on Dominican Spirituality 125

The price is 10 euro (\$11.33) and can be purchased online via PayPal (request instructions via email).

Book can be ordered online at shop.fanjeaux@orange.fr.

• **Indigenous Peoples: Conflict, Peace and Resolution**

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues meets from May 9 – 20

Indigenous peoples account for 5 percent of the world's population, while representing 15 percent of those living in poverty. As many as 33 percent of all people living in extreme rural poverty globally are from indigenous communities. Those figures are particularly alarming given the fact that so much of the world's natural resource base is located on lands within indigenous territories. This is where both governments and corporations wreak havoc on the lives of people, destroying their communities and their cultures, as they destroy water sources, forests and ecosystems at the same time.

One of the foundational pillars of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is that of free, prior and informed consent, which declares that states shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned...to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting indigenous lands, territories and other resources. Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return. However, according to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Ms. Victoria Tauli Corpuz, there is rampant impunity on the part of corporations against Indigenous Peoples worldwide. She said that “A very crucial part of the problems which indigenous peoples face is that many of the things happening in their communities are happening because of the investments that are coming in from richer countries.”

The most recent example of this was the assassination of Honduran activist Berta Caceres this past March. Berta was a leader of the Lenca people of Rio Blanco who protested the construction of the Agua Zarca dam on their traditional lands. According to Global Witness, Honduras is the most dangerous country in the world for environmental activists. Between 2010 and 2015, at least 109 people were killed for taking an active stand against destructive dam, mining, logging and agriculture projects. Of the eight cases that were publicly reported in 2015, six victims were from indigenous groups.

The key findings of Global Witness' latest report (2014) on global killings of land and environmental defenders include the following:

- Globally, at least 116 defenders were killed in 2014 – most in Brazil (29), followed by Colombia (25), the Philippines (15) and Honduras (12).
- 47 of the victims were members of indigenous groups, accounting for 40 % of the total.
- 2014 saw an increase in murders relating to hydropower projects. Disputes over land formed the backdrop to most killings.



- This hidden crisis is escaping public attention, both because it is not being adequately monitored and because many defenders live in remote, poor communities with limited access to communications and the media.
- Scant data on killings in much of Africa and areas like China, Central Asia and the Middle East may be linked to poor civil society monitoring, and the suppression of media and other information outlets (see *Deadly Environment: The Dramatic Rise in the Killings of Environmental and Land Defenders*).

It's ironic that while it has never been more important to protect the environment, in some parts of the world it has never been more deadly to do so. Competition for access to natural resources is escalating, as is global inequality and the civil unrest that follows in its wake. Land grabbing, fracking, agribusiness, mining and logging are all taking place right here in our own back yards, and we enjoy the freedom to make our protests heard, generally at no real personal expense. I know I need to remember that the next time I fall into the trap of thinking it is not worth the effort.

By Sister Margaret Mayce, OP

• **The Pilgrim Rosary of the Jubilee in Oslo, Norway**

Pilgrim Rosary, Oslo, Norway, 14 and 15 May

Persevering in prayer with Mary the Mother of Jesus, they ardently long for the fullness of the Holy Spirit, so that with unveiled face they may reflect the glory of the Lord and be transformed into his image from splendour to splendour by the Spirit of the Lord (cf. 2 Cor. 3:18.) (LCM 1,4)

Inspired by this passage from our constitutions, the nuns in the Monastery of the Annunciation in Oslo, Norway, had prepared the following program to pray and celebrate the Rosary the week-end of Pentecost:

After the morning mass on 14 May, feast of the Apostle Matthias, celebrated by one of our Dominican friars, we sang a hymn to invoke the Holy Spirit, and read the passage from Acts 1 about the Apostles in prayer with Mary, waiting for the Spirit.

We then had a procession to a small Lourdes Grotto in our garden, praying the Rosary (the mystery of the coming of the Holy Spirit) as we walked. In front of the Grotto, we had a short time of prayer, with hymns sung and prayers read, and as we walked back we sang a hymn recounting all the mysteries of the Rosary.

In the evening, the Vigil of Pentecost, we prayed the glorious mysteries and the First Vespers of Pentecost, and a Sister then gave a short conference about the Rosary as compendium of the Gospel and an aid to continual prayer. About thirty persons were present, and all were invited to coffee in the guesthouse after the conference.

15 May, Pentecost Sunday, we invited people to join us to pray the glorious mysteries of the Rosary and sing the Second Vespers of Pentecost. Each mystery was introduced with short Scripture passages from both the Old and the New Testaments.

• **Final Registration for the IDYM International Meeting and Assembly**

Receive a warm greeting on behalf of the IDYM International Commission and all those who with great effort are preparing the International Meeting and the Assembly of Representatives of Toulouse 2016.

Soon we will start our international meeting with 800 years of reasons to celebrate. This will be a very special moment for the Dominican Youth Movement which was inspired by the footsteps of our father Saint Dominic. We will celebrate our history that looks to the future of our evangelizing mission.

We know you have many questions about the meeting. For this reason, we want to reiterate the necessary information previously disseminated.

The International Meeting (16 to 21 July) will take place in important places in the history of Saint Dominic and the origin of the Order in France. Together, we will visit significant places like the home of Peter Seila in Toulouse and the monastery of nuns in Prouilhe. Considering these activities, the accommodation, transportation and food are already included in the registration fees.



Program activities Of the International Meeting and Assembly per day

- July 16: Day of arrival / Opening Mass (Toulouse)
- July 17: Day of mission (preaching in Toulouse)
- July 18: Visit Fanjeaux and Prouilhe (Fanjeaux overnight stay)
- July 19: Pilgrimage walk from Fanjeaux to Montreal (approx 12km) and visit to Carcassonne / Return to Toulouse
- July 20: Visit to Jacobins / Presentation of countries / Cultural Night (Toulouse)
- July 21: Day of departure for the Meeting participants (Toulouse)
- July 21 to 23: IDYM Assembly (Toulouse)
- July 24: Departure day for the Assembly participants (Toulouse)

Throughout the meeting, there will be time for the presentation of Movements of different countries, as well as various cultural expressions. Throughout the month of May we will send a letter to the countries and their participants with the practical information and what you need to prepare.

Our International Assembly (21 to 23 July) in which only registered head representatives from each country are required, will be held in Toulouse in the "familial Foyer d'Etudiant-e-s" from the dominican sisters, a place where the participants will also be accommodated. Other participants who are not part of the Assembly can stay in the same accommodation full board (for 17 € / day) until the 24th, which is the final day for everyone.

We recall that the total cost is € 180 per person and includes all expenses for accommodation, meals, travel, tickets and translators during the meeting. It also includes the costs for all representatives participating in the Assembly, so does not lead to an additional cost.

Participation is open to all members of the Dominican Youth Movement of 18 years or above. Youth Groups or Movements of Dominican Charism or near to it are also invited. Two representatives per country, province or movement (depending on each case) that is part of IDYM are officially invited in the Assembly. Representatives of countries that are not IDYM members can also apply for participation in the Assembly as observers.

An important clarification is in relation to health insurance. The Organization IDYM Toulouse International Meeting 2016 has not considered the cost of health insurance cover but takes into consideration the provision of first aid in case of emergency. It is true that no documents and registration were required for such insurance since it is not deemed mandatory for the trip; however, we believe and we recommend for you to avail of a travel insurance to cover your stay in France to avoid any inconvenience in your travel. Otherwise, you must pay personally for all the costs of any unforeseen and unfavorable incidents that you could encounter.

Below is the link to the final registration form. It should be filled an application entry per person with all the required data. Registration is open until June 6 or until slots remain available.

Go to the Inscription Form

We hope that this becomes a truly enriching experience of encounter among young people, but most especially an experience with Christ in the likeness of Dominic. See you in Toulouse !!

• Lay Dominican Profession @ 800 years Jubilee celebration

On the 1st of May, 2016, the Dominican Family within the Province of St. Joseph the Worker, Nigeria & Ghana had an important ceremony as part of our Provincial celebration of the 800 years Jubilee of the Order of Preachers. The Lay Dominican Fraternities of Nigeria & Ghana had the Profession of one of their Novices, Mr George Adesanya at St. Dominic Catholic Church, Yaba Lagos.

The term 'Dominican Family' is sometimes extended in a very loose sense to refer to the many lay individuals and groups, often associated with parishes and chaplaincies in care of Dominicans. These identify themselves as 'Dominicans' and are sometimes called 'Dominican Family' since they actually receive from and contribute to our Dominican Spirituality. However, such people are not canonically



(legally) part of the Dominican Order. Membership in the Order of Preachers involves some kind of formal commitment or the other to a vocation.

Lay Dominicans are canonically part of the Order of Preachers. Lay Dominican Vocation is a unique experience of formation in Dominican spirituality as a Lay Member of the Order. Like the other branches of the Dominican Family (friars, nuns and apostolic sisters, secular institutes, priestly fraternities), Lay Dominican Vocation involves certain years of spiritual formation and discernment process.

Unlike the Religious members of the Dominican Family (friars, nuns, sisters) who make Religious Profession and take vows of Obedience, Chastity and Poverty, Lay Dominicans only make Profession, as a public statement of Dominican identity and belonging. In making profession, Lay Dominicans are formally part of the Order of Preachers and participate in its preaching mission in accordance with the Rule of the Lay Fraternities of St Dominic. The profession is either Temporary (for those undergoing probation and basic formation) or Perpetual (for those who become full members).

Today there are about One Hundred and Sixty lay men and women worldwide who are professed members of the Dominican Family. They live out their commitment in their own homes. Some of them are single while others are married and raise families and pursue their own life dreams and occupations. However, they give a great priority to their membership in a Lay Dominican Fraternity and continue to receive formation in Dominican spirituality and on the Christian life. They are obliged by their profession to participate regularly in the meetings and activities of Lay Dominican communities (called Fraternities). They live daily according to the Dominican spirituality of community, study, prayer, and preaching wherever and in whatever circumstances they find themselves.

fr Oluyemi Taiwo, OP (Promoter of the Dominican Family)

● **FRIARS ON FOOT: Preaching the Gospel...one step at a time**

Two Dominican priests of the Province of St Martin de Porres are walking from New Orleans, LA, to Memphis, TN, on pilgrimage for the Jubilee of the Order.

Beginning May 29, 2016, two Dominican priests will walk over 450 miles from St. Anthony of Padua Church in New Orleans to the National Shrine of St. Martin de Porres in Memphis, Tennessee. Fr. Thomas Schaeffgen and Fr. Francis Orozco are celebrating the 800th anniversary of the approval of the Order of Preachers, also called Dominicans after the founder, St. Dominic de Guzman, by reaching back to the roots of the friars preachers.

The Order of Preachers (Dominicans) is a Roman Catholic religious order made up of priests and brothers that was formally approved by Pope Honorius III in 1216 with the mission of “preaching and the salvation of souls.” St. Dominic followed the example of Jesus who moved about preaching the Good News from town to town, rarely staying in one place, and having no place to lay his head.

The route that Fr. Thomas and Fr. Francis will travel begins in New Orleans, takes them around Lake Pontchartrain, and then they will head North through Mississippi, ending in Memphis, TN. The pilgrimage will begin on May 29, 2016, and end on June 29, 2016.

The new evangelization and ecumenism are at the heart of “Friars on Foot.” The friars write on their pilgrimage website: friarsonfoot.wordpress.com:

“We will encounter people of good will from many denominations and faith traditions, some who will be glad to see us, most will be curious, some will want to join us, and many will have questions. Direct and personal encounters with the people we meet on the way show an Order and Church that is not afraid to go outside of its doors. Our mission is simple yet farreaching.”

Fr. Thomas Schaeffgen is the Chaplain and Director of the Catholic Student Center at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Fr. Francis Orozco is the Chaplain to the Catholic Student Center at Texas Tech University and the Associate Pastor of St. Elizabeth University Parish in Lubbock, Texas.



The friars will stay overnight at churches along their route and encourage people to join them whether it be for a few hours or an entire day. People who meet them are encouraged to post about it on social media, especially Facebook and Twitter with the hashtag #friarsonfoot.

More details including a complete itinerary, map, social media information, and downloadable posters can be found at the Friars on Foot website: friarsonfoot.wordpress.com

About the Dominican Friars — The Province of St. Martin de Porres serves Jesus Christ in response to his commissioning to go out to all the world and spread the Good News. The friars (priests and brothers) spread the Good News through preaching, teaching, educating, and evangelizing that arises out of Dominican common life. This mission is carried out in universities and other educational institutions, campus ministries, Dominican parishes, and itinerant ministries. The Province of St. Martin de Porres carries out its mission with a primary focus

Fr. Francis Orozco, OP

• **Preaching Justice II: Contributions of Dominican Sisters to Social Ethics in the Twentieth Century**

The Faculty of Social Sciences at the Pontifical University of St Thomas (Angelicum) requests the pleasure of your company at the presentation of the book

Preaching Justice II: Contributions of Dominican Sisters to Social Ethics in the Twentieth Century

Date: Rome, Friday May 13, 2016, 4 - 6 p.m.

Venue: The Angelicum, Aula Minor, Largo Angelicum 1, 00184, Roma

Please register [here](#)

Preaching Justice II presents some of the key ways in which Dominican sisters have promoted justice and contributed to social ethics in the 20th century, continuing on into the 21st.

It ranges across the world, from Colombia to Vietnam, and from Sweden to South Africa, and moves from pioneering work in healthcare and teaching in the early 20th century to working with the most marginalized and promoting sustainable lifestyles as we entered the 21st.

Twenty-two contributions present the work of the sisters in twenty-six countries, covering a wide range of practical activities and theoretical development, grouped together under five main headings: resisting oppression, taking up the fight against social exclusion, promoting women and children, peacebuilding and “building a new vision” (a purposely-chosen mixed metaphor!).

It is a companion volume to Preaching Justice I, published by Dominican Publications, Dublin, in 2007, which focused on the work for justice and contribution to social ethics of the Dominican friars over the same time period.

This event is generously sponsored by the US Embassy to the Holy See

• **Rationality and the Problem of Evil: A Study Week and Conference**

The Croatian Dominican Province, the Centre of Excellence for Integrative Bioethics (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb), the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion (University of Oxford) and the Humane Philosophy Project are organizing the 19th Study Week (BA and MA level: 28 August – 1 September 2016) and Conference (research level: 2-3 September 2016) which will take place in Trogir (Hotel sv. Križ, Arbanija), Croatia. The main topic is going to be:

Rationality and the Problem of Evil

Speakers include:

- Marija Selak (University of Zagreb),
- Hrvoje Jurić (University of Zagreb),
- Luka Perušić (University of Zagreb),
- Marko Kos (University of Zagreb),



- Krešimir Babel (University of Zagreb),
- Benedict Gocke (University of Oxford),
- Ignacio Silva (University of Oxford),
- Samuel Hughes (University of Cambridge),
- Mikolaj Slawkowski-Rode (University of Warsaw),
- Ralph Weir (University of Cambridge), and
- Andrew Pinsent (University of Oxford, keynote speaker of the Conference)

The official language of the Study Week and the Conference is English. Those who are interested in participating actively in the conference should submit a proposal that includes: title of presentation, a paper abstract approximately 250-300 words in length, which includes the problem with which your scholarship engages, and the contribution you plan to make. All applicants are requested to send as a separate document: name and surname, status/title, institution, contact address, e-mail and phone number, CV.

All applications and proposals should be submitted as e-mail attachments (entitled: 'Application for the Trogir 2016' (a) 'Study Week' (b) 'Conference' (c) 'Study Week and Conference') by 1st of June 2016 to: regens@dominikanci.hr. The registration fee will be 350 euros (for the Study Week); 150 euros (for the Conference) and will cover the costs of the Study Week/Conference and accommodation. Srećko Koralija OP (moderator), Marija Selak, Mikołaj Sławkowski-Rode, Ralph Weir

Official News

• **Fr Rolando de la Rosa is the New Rector of the Angelicum**

The Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré has appointed Fr Rolando de la Rosa Valenzuela as the new Rector Magnificus of the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) Rome. Fr Rolando is a son of the Province of the Philippines and he succeeds Fr. Miroslav Konštanc Adam.

Born in Manila in 1953, Fr Rolando entered the Order and made his first religious profession of vows in 1974. In 1983, he was ordained to the priesthood. He has studied at the Aquinas University of Legazpi, Legazpi City, the Dominican House of Studies, the University of Santo Tomas (UST) and the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. He has; Bachelors in Sacred Theology and Bachelors of Arts in Philosophy, Masters of Arts in Higher Education, Licentiate in Sacred Theology and two Doctorates in Sacred Theology and Higher Education Studies.

Soon after his ordination, Fr Rolando started teaching at the University of Santo Tomas and became a Full Professor in the Faculty of Sacred Theology in 1985. After serving as Acting Rector for a couple of months, he was appointed and served as the Rector of the Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas (the largest Catholic University in the world) for three terms, between 1990 to 1998 and between 2008 to 2012. Between his first and second term as Rector, he was the President and Rector of the Colegio de San Juan de Letran Calamba (2003-2004). He is currently the Dean of the Faculty of Sacred Theology at UST and the Director of UST Office for Grants, Endowments and Partnership in Higher Education. In the Province of the Philippines, he has also served in various capacities over the years.

In the civil society, tapping into his wealth of knowledge and experiences as an education administrator, he was appointed as the Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education of the Office of the President of the Philippines (2004-2005), President of the Association of Catholic Universities of the Philippines (1990-1998) and President of the International Council of Universities of Saint Thomas Aquinas (1996-1998).

Fr Rolando has received several national and international awards. He has also published several books, editorial columns in newspapers and given speeches and presentations at national and international events. Fr Rolando will assume his new office on the 1st of September 2016 for a term of four years.



• **The General Vicariate of DR Congo is now a Vice-Province**

In accordance with the recommendations of the General Chapter of Rome in 2010, ordaining a process of reorganization of the structures of government of the Order, the General Vicariate of St. Pius V, R. D. Congo began a restructuring process. It strictly followed the roadmap drawn by the Master of the Order, Brother Bruno Cadoré at the end of the canonical visitation of this entity in January 2012. After four years of follow-ups with the assistance of the General Curia, the Vicariate General of St. Pius V fulfills the requirements as stated in LCO 257 and 258 and it is ready to be declared a vice-province.

Therefore, with the consent of the General Council, the Master of the Order has declared the General Vicariate of St. Pius V of the Democratic Republic of Congo a Vice-Province. With this declaration, the said entity is hereby entitled to all the rights and also bound by the obligations of a vice-province. The declaration takes effect from the date of its promulgation, which is, the 31st of May 2016, when it will be solemnly proclaimed during the Mass of thanksgiving scheduled for St. Dominic's Church, Kinshasa at 4pm.

In line with this, from 20 to 28 May, different meetings have been scheduled in the priory of St. Dominic, Limete, Kinshasa, with the formation Council, the Economic Council, and a workshop for the vicariate Councilors, priors and superiors, masters of students and novices, as well as the syndics. The workshop is animated by Brothers Emmanuel Ntakarutimana, former Socius for Africa and Charles Ukwé, Provincial of Nigeria and Ghana. The Vicar General, Brother Justin Adriko also scheduled a meeting of the vicariate council and a conference on the expectations of the general vicariates restructuring process which will be given by the Socius of the Master of the Order for Africa, on Monday 30 May at 5 pm.

The new vice-province (which is not a new entity) covers the entire territory of the Democratic Republic of Congo (the second largest country in Africa). Indeed, it was in January 17, 1912 that the first Belgian Dominicans arrived in Congo, specifically in Amadi, Poko territory in the north. In 1966, the Master of the Order, brother Anicet Fernandez erected this entity as the General Vicariate of Congo. In January 2012, the General Vicariate of St. Pius V celebrated the first centenary of the uninterrupted presence of the Dominicans in the Congo, in the presence of the Master of the Order, the Bruno Cadoré.

To date, the new Vice-Province of St. Pius V of the Democratic Republic of Congo has about 70 brothers engaged in various apostolates. It includes has six communities including three convents (Viadana, Isiro and Kinshasa) and three houses (Kisangani, Mbuji-Mayi and Kinshasa). After the Vice-province of St. Augustine in West Africa, Congo becomes the second African Vice-Province of the eight entities of Inter-Africa (IAOP), namely: a province (Saint-Joseph the Worker, Nigeria and Ghana), two vice-provinces (West Africa and DR Congo), a General Vicariate (Southern Africa) and four Provincials Vicariates (Equatorial Africa, Rwanda and Burundi, Eastern Africa, and Angola).

fr Gabriel Samba, op

• **Restructuring the General Vicariate of Russia and Ukraine**

As part of the process of the restructuring of entities in the Order, the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré has issued the Decree of the suppression of the General Vicariate of Russia and Ukraine and transferred the responsibility of the mission of the Order in that territory to the Province of Poland. The Decree takes effect from the 7th of June 2016.

This decision was taken after due consultation with the friars and council of the General Vicariate of Russia and Ukraine, the Prior Provincial and Council of the Province of Poland and the General Council of the Order.

By this Decree, all the 12 friars affiliated to the General Vicariate of Russia and Ukraine shall now be affiliated to the Province of Poland with all their rights and privileges. The 5 houses and all the properties of the General Vicariate of Russia and Ukraine shall now become part of the patrimony of the Province of Poland.

It is hoped that this move will help to strengthen and promote the apostolic mission and regular observance of the friars in Russia/Ukraine which will in turn ensure the sustenance and growth of the mission of the Order there.



• **Tinkering a theological vision for the Order**

Permanent Commission for the Promotion of Study, 20-22 April 2016

The Permanent Commission for the Promotion of Studies held its annual meeting recently at Santa Sabina from 20-22 April. The Socius for Studies began the meeting with a review of his report to the General Chapter of Bologna and then provided a brief overview of the five academic institutions and convents under the Immediate Jurisdiction of the Master.

Next, the coordinators of regents for Asia-Pacific, North America, Africa, and Europe, as well as a member of the Commission from South America, gave reports on the meetings of provincials and regents that have taken place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Amecameca, Mexico, Luanda, Angola, and Dubrovnik, Croatia over the last eighteen months.

The General Chapter of Trogir mandated these meetings to promote collaboration among the centers of studies in the different regions of the Order, and the regents gave progress reports on the steps that have been taken. The positive results and the different ways that the regions have chosen to collaborate were seen as hopeful signs for the future.

Over the course of the three-day meeting, the Commission considered the question of a theological vision for the Order, the creation of a network of the Order's libraries that could be accessed through digital catalogues of their collections, the issue of publications of the Order and their dissemination among the provinces, and strategies for preparing future professors for our centers of study.

On this last point there were several proposals, including posting on the Order's website academic positions in the institutions under the immediate jurisdiction of the Master that must be filled in the next five-years, a scholarship fund to provide future teachers for the institutions under the Master, and an apprenticeship program so that doctoral students could be prepared to teach in our institutions.

The Commission also reflected on the process for evaluating candidates for the Master in Sacred Theology, reviewed the petitions to the General Chapter of Bologna that concern the intellectual life of the Order, and discussed possible changes for membership in the Permanent Commission for the Promotion of Study.

Present at the meeting were fr. Romulo (Roy) Rodriguez (Coordinator of regents for Asia-Pacific), fr. Paul Akin-Otiko (Coordinator of regents for Africa) fr. Bryan Kromholtz (Coordinator of regents for North America), fr. Srecko Koralija (Coordinator of regents for Europe) and the three members appointed directly by the Master of the Order, fr. Benoît-Dominique de la Soujeole, fr. Michal Paluch, and fr. Jorge Scampini. fr. Michael Mascari, the Socius for Studies presided. fr. Pablo Sicouly, the newly appointed Promotor of Formation and Intellectual Life for the region of CIDALC was unable to attend.

The next meeting of the Commission will take place on 19-21 April 2017.

fr Michael Mascari, OP

Calendar of the Master of the Order for June 2016

May 31-June 11: Visitation to Taiwan

18: Mass at Bologna

19-24: Visitation to South Africa

25: OPTIC Meeting in Paris

26-27: Catholic Institute of Paris Conference in Paris

All articles are available on www.op.org