



ORDER OF PREACHERS



Mission Mandates of the Order



The Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization, held in October 2012, encourages us to focus the mission of the Order in the Church. We are called to rediscover for today the Order's original mission of evangelization. The Order exists to serve the Church and it does this by strengthening its own mission. The upcoming jubilee of the Order is a suitable moment for seeking to strengthen our life and mission.

The General Chapter of Quezon City (1977) identified four priorities for the Order:

1. Evangelizing culture through philosophical and theological investigations of cultures, intellectual systems, and non-Christian religious traditions
2. Catechizing a de-Christianised world and a secularized Christianity
3. Analyzing critically the origins, forms and structures of injustice in contemporary society while initiating and supporting works of justice and peace for the integral liberation of humankind
4. Using the new means of social communication for the preaching of the word of God.

The General Chapter of Avila (1986) defined five frontiers of evangelization:

1. The frontier between life and death, or the challenge of justice and peace in the world
2. The frontier between humanity and inhumanity, or the challenge of the marginalized
3. The frontier of Christian experience, or the challenge of the great world religions
4. The frontier of religious experience, or the challenge of secular ideologies
5. The frontier of the Church, or the challenge of non-Catholic Christians and of the sects.

These priorities and frontiers remain helpful for guiding our reflections and decisions today. Brother Damian Byrne wrote, "I am more convinced than ever that the four priorities of the Order as enunciated at the General Chapter held at Quezon City [1977] and reiterated at subsequent Chapters have a deep and unfolding significance for us. [...] Rooted in our heritage, these reflect the whole tradition of the Order. They are not just something conjured up at Quezon City" (www.dominicanwitness.com).

As an Order of Preachers we try to help the Church to face the new times. But there is a temptation for us also to stay with the Church as it is today, to avoid moving into new situations and responding to fresh challenges. The 'Mission Mandates', elaborated at the General Chapter of Rome (2010), include the five



frontiers of Avila and the four priorities of Quezon City, while urging us now to see all our apostolic engagements in the light of evangelization.

The last general chapter invited us to prepare for the jubilee celebration of 2016 by analyzing in depth what constitutes the essential core of our vocation, namely preaching. In this perspective, the Master of the Order asked a number of provinces and individual brothers to lead specific reflections on the challenges for our mission today as elaborated at the general chapter. The objective was to collect valuable experiences and encourage a common reflection in certain entities of the Order, while asking them also to suggest initiatives to reinforce our commitment to the mission of evangelization. The hope is that the coming general chapter will profit from these reflections as it helps us to renew our mission and prepare for the jubilee year of 2016.

The themes identified at the general chapter were assigned as follows:

1. Parish ministry - Province of Saint Joseph USA
2. Using the new means of communication – Province of Spain
3. Pastoral care of migrants - Province of Nigeria
4. Education and evangelization - Province of the Philippines
5. Schools of preaching - Province of Saint Albert the Great USA
6. Intercultural and interfaith dialogue - Provincial Vicariate of Turkey
7. Presence among indigenous people - Province of Central America

Having visited the provinces the Master added three more topics:

8. City Centre Pastoral Work – Province of Upper Germany and Austria
9. Rosary Pilgrimages and Devotions – Provinces of France and Toulouse
10. The Salamanca Process – the general promoter for Justice and Peace with the Order's delegate at the United Nations

The initial reflections on these ten areas of mission are now on the Intranet of the Order's website in the three official languages of the Order (www.op.org). With the papers prepared by the provinces you will find a summary of the discussion held on each by the Master and the General Council. There are already some comments and questions from other brothers and communities in response to the initial reflections. This is a new forum to facilitate on-going conversation on these themes.

If you are working in one of these areas of mission, or are otherwise interested in it, I would like to invite you to participate in the discussion of that area. If you enter the forum and wish to join another discussion, please do so. My hope is that we can generate an informed conversation on these important themes, learn from the experience of other brothers, and see how we might develop our engagement in each of these areas. As a worldwide Order we have the possibility of learning about these themes from many points of view.

The login Username and Password can be requested from your Provincial or Vicar, or from the socius for your region. If you have any questions please contact me directly (apostolatus@curia.op.org). I can also help you to post your comments if you have any difficulty in doing so.

Thank you for all that you are doing, and will do, to strengthen our reflection on these themes, and for helping to develop the preaching and evangelical mission of the Order.

Prakash Lohale OP
Socius for Apostolic Life

Reflecting on Old Age and Sickness

The Annual Assembly of Prioresses of Dominican Monasteries in Italy, 6-10 May 2013

The Prioresses of Dominican Monasteries in Italy gathered in Rome for their Annual Assembly. The Assembly was a time of meetings, sharing, formation, reflections and decision taking on issue of mutual interest to the life of the nuns. There were 23 nuns from 12 monasteries. The theme for this year's



convention was, “**Time of Old Age and Sickness: A Holistic Journey towards a Fullness of Human and Christian Meaning**”. Also present at the Assembly were nuns who are nurses from various community. They came to share their experiences in the care of their old and sick sisters.

The experience of old age and sickness touches the life of every monastery just as it touches every human life. These are the two stages of life we need to adequately prepare for; humanly, psychologically and spiritually because it is a delicate period of journeying towards the fullness of life in the human and Christian sense.

The sisters were assisted by Fr Jean Tefnin and Dr. Simona Frigerio in their reflections on the theme. Fr Jean Tefnin who is a monk and a psychologist stressed the importance of a positive attitude on the part of the prioresses in assisting the sick and old members of their monasteries. The positive attitude towards them and their condition will help them to cope better.

Dr. Simona Frigerio who is a lecturer at the Faculty of Nursing Sciences, Turin approached the topic from a practical point of view. She explained to the nuns that, judging from the unpredictability of the human frailty, there is need for constant medical checks, preventive treatment and the readiness to address symptoms promptly. Particular attention was paid to dementia and neurological diseases.

During the Assembly proper, the sisters had cordial exchange of information about their different monasteries. They also made plans for the course on Permanent Formation and the Assembly for the coming year.

Fr Brian Pierce, the Promoter for the Nuns was at the Assembly to share with the nuns. He gave them updates on the situation of the Monasteries at Gubbio and Florence which are in the process of being closed down and also reports from other federation of nuns. He later encourage the nuns to make provisions for visits and exchanges between their monasteries and tasked them to start reflecting on the possibility of establishing a national nursing home for their old and sick sisters.

On the last day of the gathering, the nuns were blessed with the company of the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré. He presided at the Eucharistic celebration and also shared with the nuns afterwards. Fr Bruno reminded the nuns that they share in the mission of the Order with the friars though in a unique way. Our calling as preachers is first to our communities. Therefore, our communities, though not perfect, should be places of reconciliation and constant conversion. Our mission as preachers is a mission of reconciliation and communion just like our Father Dominic. Finally, he stressed that preaching and silence cannot be separated. The moments of silence before and after the preaching is important to contemplate the Spirit through whom the Word is proclaimed.

The Master then shared with the nuns on happenings in the Order in different parts of the world. He also informed them that he is yet to appoint a successor to fr Brian and asked for their prayers. He reassured them that the friars are always ready to assist them but only in the manner they want. The nuns also made their different challenges and difficulties known to him. Above all, the entire Assembly was open, friendly and joyful.

Celebration of the Feast of the Translation of St Dominic at Bologna

On the day we remember the great event of the translation of the body of St Dominic our Father which took place on the 24th of May 1233, the friars of our Patriarchal Convent of St Dominic in Bologna experienced moments of great faith and joy as they gathered around the table of the Lord in celebration.

Presiding at the Eucharistic celebration together with the entire friars and the faithful is our own Dominican brother, Archbishop Jean Louis Bruguès. He is the Archivist and Librarian of the Church.

In his homily, he stressed the importance of being the visible witnesses of Jesus Christ, the image of the Father who by means of the Holy Spirit has made us his children, able to call him “Abba Father” (Gal. 4:6).



As friars preachers we live in a time that is similar to the time of our beloved Father Dominic, we live in a period that presents a great difficulty for our faith, a period where we have a dualistic view of life, like the one of the 13th century. In his preaching, our founder reminds and urges us to proclaim the One and Triune God, to baptize each one in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Mt. 28:19). As we continue in this Year of Faith, we (Dominicans) are invited to proclaim the true faith, the pure faith and the new faith. We should proclaim that which we know and believe, by which we can attain full communion with Him and say, ‘Amen’.

After the Eucharistic celebration, the friars gathered together with the faithful to share a feast of food and drinks. There was also the presentation of the book, *San Domenico, Un Patrimonio di Arte, Fede e Cultura* edited by the Professor of History, Beatrice Borghi. This publication is the project of the friars of the Convent of Bologna on the preparation for the celebration of the 8th centenary of the foundation of the Order (1216-2016). The moderator for the evening was fr Fausto Arici, the prior of the convent.

The speakers at the presentation were: Fr Ricchardo Barile (Prior Provincial of the Province of St Dominic in Italy), Archbishop Jean Louis Bruguès (Archivists and Librarian of the Church), Franco Cardini (Historian) and Philippe Daverio (Art critique).

The speakers explained that the choice of the friars to crown this event with the presentation of this book of texts and pictures is a challenging choice. This is because today more than ever, books on culture are no longer in vogue. In this time of technology and the visuals, people no longer what to touch papers or perceive the smell of the library or see the shelves of books rich in knowledge and information which will open up their minds and spirits to new and old knowledge and help them identify who they are, where they are coming from and what they can still accomplish for the good of the human nature.

They stressed that the book is a tale of complexities; the complexities of the church and the Convent and Stadium of St Dominic where the sons of St Dominic, the friars preachers, in the name of Christ, are forming and are being formed in the knowledge of the mystery of creation in which we are enveloped and understood. This place, despite being a building of stone is erected for the building up of the body and soul of those who live in it and contemplate its wonders which can only be understood in relation to the Word of God whose incarnation reveals to us that we have all been crowned with glory and honour as children of God and brothers of Christ (Ps 8). The new book urges us to imbibe the great teachings of St Dominic, our Father and teacher of life.

On this feast day, together as a community, we turn to him, “*O Luce della Chiesa*”. We want to raise to him the Lords hymn and spiritual songs, and to ask to be faithful to the gospel and to proclaim it completely. To you, O Father, giver of love and mercy, who forever guides the salvation of men of every race, language and people, continue to guide us in this mission for the salvation of souls. Amen.

fra Gianni Tisti, OP

Honours and Awards for Dominican Sister Nurses

Sister Mary Brenda, OP (Houston), a teacher and school nurse at St. Agnes Academy in Houston, Texas; and Doris Yordanoff, nurse manager for the Dominican Sisters of Houston, were honored for their dedication to their profession during National Nurses’ Week May 6–12.

Sister Mary was nominated for, and received, an ASHE Award (Achievement in School Health Excellence). School staff and students submit the nominations, which are reviewed by a panel. The ASHE Award recognizes the dedication of health professionals to their profession and students. Sister Mary was nominated for her passion in promoting quality health for youth who need it most.

In nominating Sister Mary, Amy Mattes, director of athletics at St. Agnes Academy, wrote,



“[Sister Mary’s] nursing track record is amazing. She has lived with and cared for school children all over the world from small barrios in Bogota, Colombia to HIV orphanages in rural East Africa. This past year, she organized our students to raise funds to drill two wells for a school in Kenya without water. She also took our students on a spring mission trip to the border of Mexico to repair homes for the poor.

Sister Mary came to our school last year as a teacher when we did not have a school nurse. Immediately, we all felt a certain peace knowing she was nearby and willing and able to handle medical issues on campus. Her abilities soon led us to name her as our school nurse! Since then, she has been a first responder in many situations with ill and/or injured students and faculty members. The day a student fell seriously ill with an asthma attack and cardiac arrest, showed us how glad we were that we had her in place. She changed our school clinic overnight, taking it from just a sleep room to a legitimate health center.

We can honestly say, our school nurse, Sister Mary, has made a world of difference in the health and safety of our school.”

As nurse manager for the Dominican Sisters of Houston, Doris is responsible for the care of the sisters 24/7. When she is not physically present, she is only a phone call away if one of the nurse assistants needs to consult with her regarding a sister’s need or care. Nursing is a ministry for Doris.

Doris was honored in this year’s Houston Chronicle’s Salute to Nurses. For the past 12 years, the Houston Chronicle has invited readers to nominate nurses to be recognized for excellence in their field as a way to honor and celebrate nurses who are often behind-the-scenes heroes of our community. From hundreds of nominations, a panel of judges selected 10 outstanding professionals to represent their colleagues in the annual Salute to Nurses.

Sister Mary Hanel, OP (Houston), wrote, “I am nominating Doris because I truly have never know a nurse as completely devoted to her patients as Doris is. She has worked for the Dominican Sisters of Houston for almost 20 years.”

Sister Mary Magdalen goes on to say, “Doris is spiritually motivated to do her job, and because of that, everything she does is out of love and respect for her patients.”

Doris is an exceptional nurse and caregiver at every phase of her patients' lives, but her devotion to them is never more evident than at the last stages of life. She is present to nurse, to pray and to comfort. The sisters in turn are grateful for her passion and dedication to assure they receive the care they need.

By Ceil Roeger, OP (Houston)

Sister Margaret honored for health care ministry in NYC

On April 29, Sparkill Dominican Sister Margaret Theresa Oettinger, OP, received the 2013 Saint Catherine of Siena Award for Leadership and Excellence in Catholic Health Care. The award honors those who have made significant contributions to Catholic health care through excellence in leadership, education and distinguished service.

Sister Margaret is director of pastoral care at The Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS). The award was presented by the Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry following a special Mass at the Church of Saint Catherine of Siena. His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, made opening remarks to the audience which included physicians, hospital administrators, nurses, chaplains, sisters, volunteers, friends and family who gathered to honor the men and women who care for the sick. The Eucharist was celebrated by Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, who was also honored that evening. After the Mass, attendees gathered together in celebration at a dinner reception.

A true “daughter” of the Dominican parish of Saint Catherine of Siena, Margaret was baptized there, grew up in the parish and even worked in the priory as a teenager. Her life and ministry as a Dominican has come full



circle with her 23 years of ministry at HSS, working closely with the Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry, and her celebration of her golden jubilee as a Sparkill Dominican last year.

According to Margaret, the goal of the HSS Pastoral Care Department is to offer spiritual, cultural and emotional support to HSS patients, family and staff. Over the years, she and her team at HSS have put numerous programs in place to accomplish this. The work that she and the Pastoral Care Department do supports the HSS mission of providing the highest quality of care to patients; this includes caring for the spiritual needs of each patient. She remarked, “I am humbled and grateful to be with our patients, families and staff at HSS. At the end of the day it is I who am blessed by my encounters with each person I meet and work with.”

By Margaret Palliser, OP

Fr Bruno Cadoré’s Fraternal Meetings

In the spirit of our common brotherhood as Dominicans, the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré welcomed three different groups of brothers to the Convent of Santa Sabina recently. On each occasion, he received the brothers warmly, shared with them and invited them to join the community for prayers and meals.

Firstly, fr Bruno met with the new Dominican students in Rome. Every year a number of brothers arrived from different provinces to study here in Rome. Fr Bruno used the opportunity of this meeting to fraternize with those who started their studies this current academic year - 2012/13.

He shared with the brothers on the concerns of the Order, listened to them and also encouraged them on their studies. The brothers are from different provinces and are currently studying different course at the Angelicum and other institutions in Rome.

Secondly, fr Bruno met with the Dominican brothers who are currently working at the different Congregations of the Holy See. Present at the meeting were;

- Fr Daniel Ols (Roman Province of St Catherine of Siena) – Congregation for the Causes of Saints
- Fr Loic-Marie Le Bot (Toulouse) – Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.
- Fr Max Cappabianca (Teutonia) – Congregation for the Oriental Churches
- Fr Caroli Vladimiro (St Thomas Aquinas in Italy) – Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity
- Fr Miguel Angel Sanroman Perez (Holy Rosary) – Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples
- Fr Vincenzo Nuara (St Thomas Aquinas in Italy) – Pontifical Commission “*Ecclesia Dei*” at the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith.

Fr Joseph Nguyen Thang (Vietnam) of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life was unavoidable absent.

Finally, fr Bruno received the Dominican prelates at the Holy See. This includes;

- Cardinal Georges Cottier, Swiss Dominican and theologian emeritus of the Pontifical Household.
- Archbishop Jean-Louis Bruguès, French Dominican and current Archivist and Librarian of the Church.
- Archbishop Joseph Augustine Di Noia, American Dominican and Vice-President of the Pontifical Commission “*Ecclesia Dei*” of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith.
- Fr Wojciech Giertych, Polish Dominican and Theologian of the Papal Household.

These are our eminent brothers. At their arrival, they received the warmth of the brothers and from all indication, they were also happy to be with the brothers. They joined the community at prayers, meals and recreation.



These brothers help to maintain the Dominican presence at the heart of the Church's administration. They are our ambassadors. We are proud of them and the prestigious position they have held or are still holding in the Church. We wish them well as they continue to serve the Church in their various capacities.

Ordinations at the Provincial Vicariate of Eastern African

On Saturday 18 May 2013, Most Revd Zacchaeus Okoth, Archbishop of Kisumu, Kenya, ordained our brothers; Leo Itabari Mwenda and Thomas Nicholas Odhiambo to the diaconate and John Baptist Ssemugabi to the priesthood. The three novitiate classmates were ordained at St. Theresa's Cathedral of Kisumu, in western Kenya where our brothers have their priory, St Martin de Porres which houses the Novitiate and the Postulancy.

Archbishop Okoth based his homily on *O Sacrum Convivium*, the prayer composed by St Thomas Aquinas. He emphasized particularly the aspect of the mind/soul being filled with grace and linked this to our prayer life, saying that a preacher who does not pray cannot have his mind/soul filled with grace.

The Archbishop's fondness towards the Dominican dates back to his days at the St. Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary, the national seminary in Kenya that was established by the Dominicans in the 1960's when they first worked in Kenya. He amused the faithful when he said that he was 'half Dominican and half diocesan'. The Archbishop has been very supportive of the Dominican ministries in his diocese, where the brothers' novitiate community stands a few meters from his residence.

It should be noted that this is the first time the brothers are having an ordination in Kisumu after many years. Previously they have always been held in the brothers' home parishes and recently in Nairobi. The joy was great for the Dominican family, the natural family and friends.

Bro. John Baptist Ssemugabi is from Hoima in Uganda while the other two; Leo Itabari Mwenda (Meru) and Thomas Nicholas Odhiambo (Kisumu) are Kenyans. They all entered the Order in 2005, made their first profession in 2006 and their solemn profession in 2011. John Baptist was ordained a deacon in 2012 and he has been the Assistant Novice Master in Kisumu. Bros Leo and Thomas are currently in their fourth year of Theology at Tangaza College, Nairobi. We thank God for the gift of three new labourers in his vineyard and we congratulate our three brothers

The Provincial Vicariate of Eastern Africa vicariate was established in 1991 by the friars of St Joseph Province, New York. Although, the territory of the Vicariate comprises; Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and South Sudan, for the moment, the brothers are present only in Kenya with three communities, namely, St Dominic and St Catherine of Siena in Nairobi, and St Martin de Porres in Kisumu.

Bro. Gabriel Samba, OP (Socius for Africa)

In Elmira, at the Heart of Reality

Before I became a Dominican friar I considered becoming a monk. I once related my monastic aspirations to a fellow Catholic who then became upset and objected, "I don't like the idea of you sitting inside and praying all day while the rest of us have to work."

A similar sentiment pervades the letters of the early friars to their Dominican sisters. St. Peter Martyr complained to the prioress of a convent in Milan, "You have gone up onto the mountain of sacrifice, while I still dwell in the valley of care, and have spent almost all my life for others. You take the wings of contemplation and soar above all this, but I am so stuck in the glue of concern for other people that I cannot fly. Woe is me, for my exile is prolonged." And Bl. Jordan of Saxony, writing to Bl. Diana d'Andalo, states quite bluntly, "I hardly ever pray, and so ask the sisters to make up for my deficiency."

While my interlocutor resented the leisure of monks, the friars were happy that their sisters had gained a life of contemplation. And, though the friars were saddened by the contrast between their own busyness and the repose of the nuns, they were grateful to the sisters for their total dedication to prayer and depended on them to supply the friars' lack. This gratitude often engendered in the friars a deep affection for the nuns, which they expressed in their letters and in visits to the monasteries.



Another Brother and I were recently sent on a preaching mission and had occasion to stay with the sisters at the Monastery of Mary the Queen in Elmira, New York. The monastery was founded in 1944 as a daughter house of Our Lady of the Rosary in Buffalo. Since 1945, the nuns have had Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from morning until evening. And for decades the monastery has nourished the chapter of Third Order Dominicans to which Brother and I had been sent.

The sisters received us warmly and gathered to converse with us in the parlor. The support they gave us on that visit by way of lodging and conversation reminded me of the help they always give to the friars by their prayers.

St. Thomas said that the task of the friars is to contemplate and to pass on to others what is contemplated. But preachers can feel as if they do not have enough time to contemplate what they are meant to pass on. The nuns, however, have a greater devotion to contemplation. The Constitutions of the Nuns of the Order of Preachers describes their vocation in this way: “the nuns are to seek, ponder, and call upon Jesus Christ in solitude, so that the word proceeding from the mouth of God may not return to him empty but may accomplish those things for which it was sent.”

While the friars are called especially to preach the word, the nuns are called especially to hear it. This activity is the beginning and end of preaching. As professional hearers of the word, the nuns work so that the word that the friars preach “may accomplish those things for which it was sent.” Thus the friars pass on not only the fruits of their own contemplation but the fruits of the nuns’ contemplation, too.

Visiting the sisters deepened my admiration and gratitude for their lives of careful listening to the word of God. Their work is fundamental for the Church. In the nuns, the Church is hidden with God—as one sister said, “at the heart of reality.” No cause for resentment here—only joy.

Br. Alan Piper, O.P.

FORMATION COMMUNITIES JOIN TOGETHER FOR LANDS OF DOMINIC PILGRIMAGE

The Dominican Novices and Formators from the Central and Southern Province, as well as the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate, joined three Sisters from Africa studying in the United States for the Armchair Lands of Dominic Pilgrimage. Led by Sr. Ann Willits (Sinsinawa), the Pilgrimage began at Aquinas Institute of Theology with a meditation on the spirituality of being pilgrims: “The Communal dimension of pilgrimage is going to make it Dominican. That is why we ate together and prayed together before anything else. The Dominican dimension of the pilgrimage will make it unique.” As a pilgrimage, this particular one was unique in that it is the first Lands of Dominic experience to include both male and female novices exploring Dominican Life together.

Beginning with the landscape of Caleruega, a place that may look desolate, Ann shared some of the factors that influenced Dominic’s spirituality. Arid, rocky land, which is difficult to farm, speaks of the hope that Dominic and his family must have had in order to remain living in the area. Determination and steadfastness, despite obstacles, influenced Dominic throughout this life as the Order of Preachers developed.

Dominic was sent away from his home to study at a young age. As a Canon, he was called out of the Cathedral to travel by his friend Diego. Dominic learned itinerancy through the needs of the people. Ann challenged the group to look at our own view of itinerancy, “If you find yourself comfortable, don’t stay there. Go where it is uncomfortable... where you are a stranger... where you don’t want to go... because you can always come home.”

Fr. Jim Barnett (Central Province) joined Ann in co-directing the pilgrimage through his presiding and preaching at Eucharistic celebrations throughout the week. Drawing on many of the experiences he had serving in Latin America, Jim provided a model of integrating the story and life of Dominic with his own life. Jim began a presentation on Dominic as Contemplative Preacher with the statement that, “Dominic was first called ‘Brother’ by Diego. It was the only title that Dominic accepted.” Both Ann and Jim emphasized



the fact that we are first called to the Order of Preachers and called to be brother and sister to each other – Family – no matter what other titles we may have in life. As Br. Brent Bowen (Central Province) shared, “The Armchair Lands of Dominic has been especially formative for my participation in the Order. The fact that I was able to have this experience in the midst of the rest of the Dominican Family only made the experience more fulfilling. I would recommend it to anyone, but especially to those in initial formation.”

The presence of Sr. Kate Okolocha (Nigeria), Sr. Lucy Mwesa (Zambia) and Sr. Grace Malama (Zambia) broadened the experience of Family for the group. As professed Sisters studying in the United States, they have unique challenges and blessings, but are witnessing and being Dominican Family within the context of their living and educational settings. In sharing their own experiences of formation, they were moved by the collaboration that exists among the Congregations and Provinces in the United States. In the last day together, the group shared their own hopes for the future. They dreamed of ways in which the experience of Dominican Family shared during the week can be continued. Fr. Scott O’Brien (Southern Province) summed up the experience with, “It was a renewed opportunity to come together as Family, which hasn’t happened in many years. It represents a new beginning as Family, with its renewed recognition of our shared charism. Jim and Ann, as well as the formation directors will continue to reinforce the experience of Dominican Family through our own modeling.”

Pioneer of Interfaith Dialogue in Pakistan – fr James Channan, OP

Originally published in the German Forum Weltkirche

For over 30 years, the Pakistani Dominican, Fr James Channan has actively worked for inter-religious dialogue and peace between Christians and Muslims. He has been acknowledged and honoured with various awards both in Pakistan and abroad because of his experiences, his commitment and his perseverance in seeking for dialogue and peace despite frequent disappointments and threats to his life. His entire life as a Dominican has been devoted to this single pastoral activity.

Fr Channan was born on October 15, 1952 in the district of Okara in Pakistan. In 1969, he graduated from St. Vincent School in Mian Channu, a district in the province of Punjab. He spent the next 4 years in a training and preparation center of the Dominicans, (Louis Hall) in Multan. During this time he studied in Williyat Hussain Islamia College Multan and obtained a Bachelor Degree from the Punjab University in Lahore. In September 1973, he entered the novitiate at Bahawalpur Dominican House and a year later, he made his first vows (Simple Profession). He received philosophical and theological training from Christ the King Seminary in Karachi (1974-1980).

During this period of study, Fr Channan spent six months for an internship in the house of the Jesuits (Loyola Hall) in Lahore, which introduced him to the Swiss Jesuit P. Büttler, a pioneer of the Christian-Islamic dialogue in Pakistan. During this internship, Fr Channan began his studies at the Institute of Arabic Language.

He was ordained to the priesthood on April 9, 1980 at Faisalabad. He did two years pastoral work at Sahiwal after which he went to Rome and obtained a Licentiate from the Pontifical Institute for Arabic-Islamic Studies (PISAI) in 1985. He went further to study Pastoral Counseling at Boston (1996), World Religions at Harvard and Peace Building at American University in Washington DC (2003). His academic career was crowned recently with the award of an honorary Doctor of Theology by the International Gospel Mission, Norway at the recommendation of the Protestant Theological College of Pakistan. At the presentation of the award which was witnessed by his mother, Fr Channan acknowledged the invaluable role of his parents in his religious and priestly life and ministry.

When Fr Channan returned to Pakistan after completing his studies abroad, he was appointed director of the dialogue center of the Dominicans in Lahore (1985-1995). There he established a dialogue circle of Christians and Muslims which, despite the deterioration of relations between Christians and Muslims in Pakistan, continued to exist as a positive impetus for interfaith understanding among religious groups in the country. He was the director of the Pastoral Institute Multan (2001-2007).



Within his religious community, Fr Channan served as Vice-Provincial of the Pakistani Ibn-e-Mariam Vice-Province. In the National Conference of Major Superiors of Pakistan, he has held important leadership positions over the years. He was the secretary of the Episcopal Commission for Christian-Muslim dialogue of the Pakistani Bishops' Conference (1995-2002). He was awarded the Pakistani Peace Price in 2012. Internationally, he was a member of the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue (1985-1995) and consultant to the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with Muslims (1999-2004). He was cofounder and Regional Coordinator of the "United Religious Initiative" (URI), founded in San Francisco, USA in 2000.

For 30 years, Fr Channan has participated in many international conferences on inter-religious dialogue and contributed in various capacities. As director of the nationally and internationally renowned Pastoral Institute Multan, he has organized numerous seminars on inter-religious dialogue with the participation of Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and Baha'is, and introduced a number of peace initiatives like the Peace March of 1999 and the planting of "Peace Pole". Fr Channan has published a number of books and several other articles in magazines. He is currently head of the Dominican Peace Center in Lahore, which was blessed and inaugurated by His Eminence, Cardinal Jean Louis Tauran, President of the Pontifical Council Interreligious Dialogue in November 2010.

Looking back at his youth, Fr Channan recalls good experiences of Christian-Muslim coexistence in his hometown. Thus, he has till date many non-Christian friends. Half of the faithful at his first Mass at his hometown were Muslims. Once in 2004, he was invited to the Badshahi Mosque, the largest Mosque in Lahour by the Grand Imam. In the 350 years history of the Mosque, that was the first time a Christian has ever prayed and preached in it. Fr Channan's zeal for dialogue and peace is enkindled by such experiences.

Often when he is asked about this motivating factor, Fr Channan has always answered that there is no alternative to dialogue and peace. Being only 2% of the population, it is very important for Pakistani Christians to coexist peacefully with the 96% Muslims. Christians are gradually being understood as citizens who sincerely wish to carry the country along with the Muslims. Thus, Christians join Muslims in condemning any form of sacrilege against the Prophet Mohammed, the Holy Quran or the Islamic faith as a whole. The dialogue with Muslims is based on mutual respect and solidarity, equality and the promotion of cooperation and peaceful coexistence. The dialogue strives to reduce existing tensions and misunderstandings.

Despite his optimistic stands, Fr Channan is still realistic on the difficulties. For instance, the operations of radical and extremist groups like the Taliban, the introduction of blasphemy laws and the killing of Shabbaz Bhatti, the Catholic Federal Minister for Minorities for his efforts to have it abolished, the systematic teaching of religious intolerance in schools etc are notable setbacks. Fr Channan condemned the assassination of Bhatti and he has remained vocal in his quest for dialogue, tolerance and peace despite the threats. By George Evers (Mission Scholars)

Fr Bruno Cadoré Celebrates with DSI

Fr Bruno Cadoré visited the Dominican Sisters International (DSI), the international body of Congregations of Dominican Sisters at their 7th General Assembly holding at Ciampino, a city some kilometres outside of Rome. Fr Bruno was in company of some brothers from Santa Sabina.

First Part

During the visit, fr Bruno shared with the sisters on the topic, "The New Evangelization and the Dominican Mission today in response to the recent Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelization and the Transmission of the Faith".

In his presentation, the Master went back to the beginning, the approval of the Order by Pope Honorius III in which he entrusted to Dominic and his brothers the task of evangelization in the footsteps of the apostles. At that time, Dominic was confronting something new in the society and the Church and he employed a new way of preaching the gospel to confront the new challenges. The task for us now is to return to this founding principle of our Order. The Church invites us in this new time and circumstances to look for new ways to



proclaim the gospel of salvation, which itself never changes. To meet the challenges of the new world, we need apostolic creativity. He reminded the sisters that what makes us a Family (sisters, friars, nuns, laity) is our ability to love the world together. Our communion as a Family is in the Church and for the Church. Now is the time to renew our calling to evangelize, to preach the Good News of salvation.

After his presentation, the sisters had the opportunity to share with him and also ask him some questions.

Second Part

Fr Bruno celebrated the Eucharist of the Solemnity of the Ascension with the sisters. He was assisted by the friars. The celebration was melodious, colourful and multilingual. The readings and the songs were rendered in different languages. The sisters made the presentation of the gifts to the altar with an African song and dance.

In his homily, fr Bruno explained that the story of the ascension is our own story. After Jesus ascended, the apostles went out to preach, empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is time for us to go out and preach in a new way to a new world.

Third Part

After the celebration of the Eucharist, fr Bruno and the friars joined the sisters for lunch. They shared the meal in a festive mood as a family. This also gave the sisters the opportunity to interact more with the Master and the friars.

The DSI Assembly will come to an end on Wednesday, the 15th of May, 2013. By that time, it is expected that the sisters would have elected a new International Coordinator to replace Sr Fabiola Velasquez Maya, the outgoing International Coordinator.

Fr Bruno Cadoré At St Albert, Hong Kong

As part of his canonical visitation to the Province of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré visited the Priory of St Albert, Rosaryhill, Hong Kong, the novitiate community of the province. The Master was in the company of his Socius for Asia Pacific, fr Vincent Lu.

During his interaction with the community, he expressed his concerns for the mission of the Order in that part of the world and particularly in that community. The community has been long dedicated to education apostolate and this has been an effective means of evangelization in that part of the world. All those who have been baptised and received into the Church in recent times in the Diocese of Hong Kong were all pupils of Catholic schools.

Since the community doubles as the novitiate of the province, there have been cordial relationship and cooperation between the brothers involved in the administration of the school and those at the novitiate. The brothers have been mutually available to one another. The Master of Novices, fr Bonifacio Garcia Solis attested to this.

When the Master met with the novices, they asked him several questions and he availed himself of that opportunity to enlighten them on some pertinent concerns of the Order. Particularly, he shared with them on the preparations for the celebration of the Jubilee of the Order in 2016 and the need for us all to re-examine our Dominican life and mission.

According to the Master, we need to be living witnesses of what we believe and preach and be ready to welcome those who show some interest in our testimony. This is true of a place like Hong Kong where Christianity is minority. Evangelization through the preaching of the Word is our charism and we cannot shy away from it. In fact, pope emeritus, Benedict XVI indicated that as Dominicans we ought to evangelize through our life of prayer, study and preaching. We have to renew our commitment to the living and preaching of love and communion. We must never become too comfortable such that we fail to notice the poor ones around us.

Despite the general drought in vocations, the good Lord has continued to bless the Order with new vocations. According to the Master, we have about a thousand brothers now in formation in the Order and about three



hundred are from the Asia-Pacific region. In all these, the Order will continue to strive not just for quantity (number) but also for quality (fidelity).

“San Domenico: Un patrimonio secolare di arte, fede e cultura”

Three very important anniversaries are fast approaching; the 800th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Order in 2016, the 800th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Convent of St Dominic in Bologna in 2019 and the 800th Anniversary of the Death of St Dominic in 2021.

In anticipation of these anniversaries, the friars of the Convent of St Dominic, Bologna have put together a book titled, *“San Domenico: Un Partimonio Secolare di arte, fede e cultura” (St Dominic: A Millenary Heritage of Art, Faith and Culture)* edited by Prof. Beatrice Borghi.

In the past, to celebrate a number of important anniversaries, the Convent of St Dominic had commissioned a chapel of beautiful frescos, a precious reliquary, a magnificent painting and a prestigious sculpture. With the changing times, it is difficult to equal these past feats which were necessary to protect our artistic heritage. It will remain an impossible task to attempt to match their expertise and historical scrupulousness, their exquisite taste and perseverance which are all evident.

Despite current limitations, we have endeavoured to produce something that will last the test of time in the midst of such works as the frescos of Reni, the sculptures of Michelangelo, Caracci or Lippi. Certainly, we strongly believe that this book will be a living witness of our heritage.

From within the pages of the book, it is easy to realize how the complex Convent of St Dominic, Bologna is a rich treasure of undisputable beauty. Throughout this past eight centuries, from one generation of friars to another, a beautiful edifice has been erected and it remains, first and foremost, a sign of the beauty of the Dominican vocation.

Therefore, recalling the treasures that exist within the walls of the Convent of St Dominic means reawakening the memory of this community of friars, or better still, rekindling the living memory of the religious vocation which has consecrated these walls as a place for the reception of the Word.

One could be tempted to see its beauty as a pursuit of ostentatious vagueness. On the contrary, it should rather be seen as a devout tribute to the Divine Word; He that is loved, prayed, studied and preached. The Convent, the place of warm fraternal reception is therefore, the place of prayer and wisdom.

Within the rich pages of this book and its impressive images, it is easy to see a line of thought that leads us right to the depth of a life marked by continual prayer and desire and the obvious fatigue from a mission that has been in charge of the truth for centuries. Thus, the Convent wants to continue to be the “Church of the Lord” and by virtue of that, a place where we can grow with a vital sense of belonging.

Above all these, we must not lose sense of the fact that, after 800 years, the Convent remains even today; a home for the friars and the dwelling place of the body of our Holy Father Dominic, the place where he has found comfort and rest.

Beatrice Borghi is a researcher and professor of Medieval History. He teaches History at the Faculty of Educational Sciences at the University of Bologna.
fra Fausto Arici, OP

Unlocking Divine Action: Contemporary Science and Thomas Aquinas

A book by Fr. Michael Dodds, OP

Our ability to talk about God’s action in the world is closely tied to our understanding of causality. With the advent of modern Newtonian science the conception of causality narrowed, and the discussion of divine action became locked into that contracted understanding. There seemed to be simply no room for God to act in the world without interfering with nature and the laws of science that describe it.



Fortunately, the idea of causality has been greatly expanded through developments in contemporary science. Discoveries in quantum mechanics, cosmology, chaos theory, and biology have all led to a broader understanding of causality. These developments have opened two fundamentally new ways for theologians to “unlock” the discussion of divine action. One is to use the developments of science themselves to speak of God’s action. The other is to speak of divine action not directly through the theories and interpretations of science, but rather through the broader understanding of causality that they suggest.

This book explores both approaches and argues that the latter provides a more effective way for discussing divine action. After showing that the idea of causality in contemporary science is remarkably reminiscent of key concepts in the philosophy of Thomas Aquinas, it then retrieves those notions and applies them to the discussion of divine action. In this way, it provides a sustained account of how the thought of Aquinas may be used in conjunction with contemporary science to deepen our understanding of divine action and address such issues as creation, providence, prayer, and miracles.

Michael John Dodds is a Dominican of the Western Province of The Most Holy Name, USA and a Professor of Philosophy and Theology at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley.

Saint Hyacinth Visits Katowice, Poland

Since August 2012, Dominican friars have been working at Katowice, at the Parish of the Transfiguration, a parish of about five thousand worshipers. One of the first initiatives of the parish priest, Fr Michał Śliż, was to bring to the church the relic of St. Hyacinth Odrowąż, the patron saint of the Archdiocese of Katowice and the Polish Dominicans.

“We received the first-class relic of St Hyacinth, whose authenticity is confirmed by the signature of Cardinal Karol Wojtyła from the time he was the Archbishop of Kraków” - says Fr Śliż.

On 6 February 2013, in the company of a group of his parishioners, Fr Śliż travelled to Krakow. During the Mass at the tomb of St. Hyacinth in the Basilica of the Holy Trinity, the Dominicans handed over the relic to the delegates of the parish.

"We believe that St. Hyacinth’s intercession is responsible for the commencement of our missionary work in Katowice. We would like him to continue to support our mission through his intercession. It’s unimaginable and wonderful for us that the relic of St Hyacinth is presently in Katowice, the land where he is also the patron saint”, explains Fr Śliż.

The solemn introduction of the relic took place on March 2. The relic was brought into the church by the Chancellor of the Curia, Fr. Adam Pawlaszczyk. Upon entering the church, he handed it over to the parish priest, Fr Michał Śliż.

In his reflection, the chancellor attempted to characterise the mission of the Dominicans. According to him,

"Just put a Dominican on the pulpit and he will do what he ought to do, that is, he will start speaking about Jesus. His basic task is to pass on to others the fruits of his contemplation on the Word of God. Thus, those in whose presence we are now and the one whose relic we are introducing took on the apostolate of passing onto us the fruits of their contemplation."

There were Masses, worship and vigil prayers and different groups in the parish, parishioners from other parishes and Dominicans from Krakow all took part. The current Archbishop of Katowice, Wiktor Skworc, who invited the Dominicans to Katowice and entrusted the parish to them also took part in the prayers. He came in honour of St Hyacinth to venerate his relic.

On the next day, Archbishop Damian Zimoń, archbishop emeritus of Katowice celebrated the thanksgiving Mass for the safe arrival of the relic to the church. In his homily, he reminded all of the merits of the



thirteenth century Dominican friar and his religious brothers, past and present, in their mission of deepening the Christian faith in Katowice and the entire country.

“The Dominicans were the first religious Order to successfully pursue an intensive preaching/pastoral mission, both in the urban and rural areas. Their motive was to reach out with faith to the greatest number of people. The exceptional achievements of St Hyacinth include; the promotion of the Eucharist, devotion to the Virgin Mary and individual confessions, and till date, these remain the distinguishing features of the Polish spirituality in the whole of Europe. His preaching mission has both spiritual and socio-political values. During the period of the feudal fragmentation of Poland, he promoted the growth of national consciousness”

Addressing the Dominicans currently working at Katowice, the Archbishop hopes that they will effectively promote the life, teachings and cult of St Hyacinth in Katowice.

Hyacinth (Polish: Jacek) Odrowąż was born in 1183 in Kamień Śląski. In 1221 after his studies at the University in Paris and the University of Bologna, together with Bl. Ceslaus (Polish: Czesław), he received the Dominican habit from the hands of St. Dominic in Rome. Soon after, the founder of the Order of Preachers sent him back to Poland.

Hyacinth founded the Dominican convents in Kraków, Gdańsk, Chełmno, Elbląg, Toruń, and also in Riga, Tartu and Königsberg. He also preached in Russia, founding convents in Kiev and Halych. He died on 15 August 1257 in Kraków. His grave is located at the Dominican Basilica of the Holy Trinity in Kraków. In 1594 Pope Clement VIII canonized him and his feastday is celebrated every August 17.

Consecrated to God for the World

Dominican Monastery of St. Jude

St. Dominic founded the Order of Preachers to preach the truth of the Gospel message in a world that was in need of saving grace. But prior to founding the friars, St. Dominic established the community of Dominican nuns. St. Dominic saw that an intimate life of contemplation, prayer, and penance was necessary for the preaching of his Order to bear fruit in the world. In this post I would like to draw attention to the Dominican life lived by the Dominican nuns at the Monastery of St. Jude in Marbury, Alabama.

In April of 1944 two nuns, Mother Mary Dominic, O.P. and Mother Mary of the Child Jesus, O.P., departed from Catonsville, Maryland and arrived in Marbury, Alabama to found the Monastery of St. Jude. The monastery was to be a place where those who aspired to the contemplative life could enter without prejudice to race. Bishop Thomas Toolen and Fr. Harold Purcell welcomed the two foundresses and helped them in the establishment of their monastery. Due to a shortage of materials during wartime, the nuns had a nearby frame farmhouse converted into temporary housing thirty miles North of Marbury. Named after St. Jude, patron of the impossible, the nuns began to solicit funds in the 1950's for a permanent monastery on the adjoining hill top of Marbury. By November of 1952 the ground was broken by Bishop Toolen to begin construction, and the community of nuns was able to enter the new monastery on the Feast of St. Jude, October 28, 1953.

Today the nuns at the Monastery of St. Jude remain ever faithful to their charism of work, study, and prayer set out by St. Dominic and their two foundresses. The nuns are consecrated women dedicated to truth in their study of Sacred Scripture, the Fathers of the Church, and St. Thomas Aquinas. Their schedule of work, study, and the liturgy of the hours keep the nuns in constant contact with the truth of Jesus Christ. The Constitution of the Nuns states that the solemn celebration of the liturgy is the heart of their whole life and the chief source of their unity. The Monastery of St. Jude is also known for its *Hour of Guard*, where one or more of the nuns are always at watch before the Lord, praying the rosary at the feet of the Blessed Virgin before the Eucharist.

The nuns see their lives as a consecration to God out of love. Through their work, prayer, study, and penance, God draws these consecrated women closer to himself and uses them as powerful intercessors on behalf of the world. They pray daily for the work of the Dominican friars who preach for the salvation of souls. The life of the nuns, therefore, is one dedicated to prayer that souls may come to know Jesus Christ.



St. Dominic founded the cloistered nuns to be at the heart of the Holy Preaching of his Order, and the need for these consecrated women is just as great today. This summer the nuns at the Monastery of St. Jude are hosting a [vocations retreat](#) for young women from the evening of Friday July 26 through the morning of Sunday July 28. This is a special event for the nuns, since usually women are invited only to make private visits. The nuns have also invited a Dominican friar to come for the retreat to give conferences and speak about the consecrated life in the Dominican Order. The retreat will include praying the Divine Office with the nuns, silent adoration, and times when the women can share their experiences with each other. May the Lord continue to bless these Dominican nuns with vocations and with the indispensable graces of their charism, as they intercede for the world and the salvation of souls.

By: Br. Athanasius Murphy, O.P.

The Spirit of unity flows into us from Christ

Pope Francis is a master of understatement: "He always does a nice job, the Holy Spirit, throughout history."

In his [recent homily](#) for the memorial of St. Athanasius, Pope Francis spoke about the role of the Holy Spirit in fostering harmony in the Church. In the context of [the dispute among the early Christians](#) as to whether Gentile converts should be held to the observance of the Jewish law, the Holy Spirit inspired the apostle James, bishop of Jerusalem, to speak in such a way that the dispute was settled (cf. Acts 15:7-21). As the apostles themselves described their consensus, "It is the decision of the holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities" (Acts 15:28). As Pope Francis [preached](#), "The Holy Spirit had ... to foster harmony among these positions, the harmony of the Church, among them in Jerusalem, and between them and the pagans. He always does a nice job, the Holy Spirit, throughout history. And when we do not let Him work, the divisions in the Church begin, the sects, all of these things ... because we are closed to the truth of the Spirit."

By a happy coincidence, the Vespers reading from the Common of Doctors for the memorial of St. Athanasius also invoked the inspired wisdom of the apostle James: "Wisdom from above is first of all innocent. It is also peaceable, lenient, docile, rich in sympathy and the kindly deeds that are its fruits, impartial and sincere. The harvest of justice is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace" (James 3:17-18). This passage from the letter of St. James, whose author is traditionally identified with the first bishop of Jerusalem, offers us another angle for considering the theme of harmony and division in the Church.

Division and conflict in the Church arise from our sinful passions, not from the spirit of God who is the source of the wisdom from above. As St. Augustine once starkly remarked, even "Christ's persecutors did not rend His [seamless] garment, [but] Christians divide the Church." So often in the history of the Church, legitimate theological discussion has given way to bitter controversy that leads to division rather than the unification of the members of the Church in God. In the face of error touching upon the truths of revelation, it is certainly necessary to use theological arguments to identify and correct misunderstandings, but this defense of the faith must exhibit the qualities identified by St. James if it is truly to be "wisdom from above".

In addition to being innocent (often translated less mellifluously as "pure"), the inspired wisdom that undergirds theological discussion in the Church should be peaceable, lenient, docile, rich in sympathy and the kindly deeds that are its fruits, impartial and sincere. Much could be said about this list of adjectives and its significance for the question at hand, but for now I would like to concentrate of the characteristic of wisdom being *peaceable* or *peace loving* (εἰρηνική).

Peace can be a controversial subject at times. It is true that peace can be a hollow good when its assertion does not reflect the full reality of a complex situation through a sort of false irenicism: "They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace" (Jer 6:14). Nevertheless, we must never forget that as Christians we are called to preach the gospel of peace: "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, of them preaching good things" (Rom 10:15 [Vg]; cf. Eph



6:15). The Gospel is a Gospel of peace because our God is not the "God of disorder but of peace" (1 Cor 14:33). As St. Paul promises the Corinthians, "Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you" (2 Cor 13:11). By living at peace with one another, a place is prepared for the God of peace to dwell among us.

And yet, the peace that we strive to maintain can only be preserved by the power of God himself. As St. Thomas Aquinas writes in his commentary on Romans, the unity of Christians can only come from the Spirit of Christ.

[St. Paul] touches on the unity of the mystical body when he says *we are one body* (Rom 12:5): *that he might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross* (Eph 2:16). This mystical body has a spiritual unity through which we are united to one another and to God by faith and love: *there is one body and one spirit* (Eph 4:4). And because the Spirit of unity flows into us from Christ—*anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him* (Rom 8:9)—he adds *in Christ*, who unites us to one another and to God by his Spirit whom he gives us: *that they may be one even as we are one* (John 18:22).

As Thomas Aquinas writes in his commentary on Hebrews, peace is the proper effect of God, for true peace on earth can only come about from the charity that is given by God alone:

For God's proper effect is to make peace, because *he is not a God of dissension but of peace* (1 Cor 14:33), and, *have peace: and the God of peace and love shall be with you* (2 Cor 13:11). For peace is nothing else than the unity of affections, which God alone can make one, because hearts are united by charity, which is from God alone. For God knows how to gather and unite, because God is love, which is the bond of perfection. Hence, *he makes men of one manner to dwell in a house* (Ps 68:7). For man made peace between himself and God through the mystery of Christ.

In our common life in the Church, and most of all in our theological investigations and discussions, the God of peace must transform our hearts and minds so that we may truly be lovers of his peace. Let us join our prayer to that of the Church on this feast of Sts. Philip and James: "Purify our minds, we pray, O Lord, by these holy gifts we have received, so that, contemplating you in your Son together with the Apostles Philip and James, we may be worthy to possess eternal life."

Official News

The New Prior Provincial of the Province of Santiago, Mexico

In the course of the on-going Provincial Chapter of the Province of Santiago, Mexico, fr Jorge Rafael Diaz Nunez was elected Prior Provincial on Thursday, the 23rd of May, 2013. The election has been confirmed by the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré and he has accepted. This will be the second time for him, he was first election Prior Provincial in 2001 and he served for a term.

Fr Jorge Rafael was born in Mexico City in 1952. He entered the Order, made first profession in 1983 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1991. He studied Theology at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland).

He was a missionary for a while at *San Cristobal de las Casas in Chiapas*, Mexico. Just before his election, he has been the Master of Theology Students and professor at the Institute of Interdenominational Theological Education of Mexico (IFTIM). He was just reelected for his second consecutive term as the Promoter of Formation and Intellectual Life for CIDALC.

Prayers for the General Chapter of Trogir 2013

We are now two months away from the commencement of the General Chapter of Trogir 2013. Since the formal convocation of the Chapter by the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré, preparations have been going on and are now at an advanced stage.



The General Chapter of Diffinitors is billed to take place between July 22 and August 8, 2013 in the city of Trogir, Croatia. The Province of Croatia as the host province and fr Mihael Tolj as the Secretary General of the Chapter have been working in collaboration with the team at the General Curia led by fr Wojciech Delik, the Socius for Central and Eastern Europe.

The team is currently confirming the names of the delegates from various provinces and preparing the Chapter documents in the official languages of the Order. On the ground at Trogir, the brothers are also putting finishing touches to the logistics.

In anticipation of the commencement of the Chapter, we are reminded of the Master's appeal for prayers for the success of the Chapter. The Master has asked the entire Dominican Family to offer Masses and intercessory prayers during the Divine Office for the Chapter. This will guarantee the intercession of the Host of Dominican Saints for a smooth preparation, safe arrival of delegates and fruitful deliberations.

DOMINICAN SISTERS INTERNATIONAL ELECTS A NEW INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR

On Tuesday, 14 May 2013, the prioresses of DSI elected Sr. Marie Therese Clement as the new International Coordinator of DSI (2013-2019). She will succeed Sr. Maria Fabiola Velasquez Maya who has just finished serving as the International Coordinator of DSI (2007-2013).

Sr. Marie Therese is a member of the Dominican Missionaries of Our Lady of Delivrande. While the motherhouse of her congregation is in France, Sr. Marie Therese is a native of San Lucia in the Caribbean where she has been living and working while serving as a General Councillor for her congregation.

Sr. Marie Therese made her perpetual profession of vows in 1992. She brings a wealth of personal gifts and professional competencies to the Coordinating Council of DSI and her office as International Coordinator.

The DSI Assembly is grateful to Sr. Marie Therese and to her congregation for this generous gift of service to the Apostolic Dominican Sisters of the world and to the entire Dominican Family.

The Newly Elected Coordinating Council of DSI

The VII General Assembly has also elected the five Continental Coordinators. Together with the new International Coordinator, Sr Marie Therese Clement OP, they form the Coordinating Council of DSI. They will work closely with her for the next 6 years.

The International Coordinating Council;

Sr Marie Therese Clement, OP (San Lucia) – International Coordinator

Sr Nilsen Else-Brit OP (Europe),

Sr Rose Marie Riley OP (North America), re-elected for another term.

Sr Faustina Jimoh OP (Africa),

Sr Viviana Sisack OP (Latin America and Caribbean)

Sr Tran Thi Sam Marie Constance OP (Pacific Asia).

The Dominican Laity European Council Meets with the Master

The Laity has always been part of the Dominican Family and they exist in different parts of the world under different fraternities. They cooperate with the rest of the Family in carrying out the preaching mission of the Order while still living with their families and doing their private jobs. They are aggregated to the Order by adopting a Rule of Life approved by the Master of the Order and making a promise to live by that Rule. – suited to their circumstances.

“They have as their vocation to radiate the presence of Christ in the midst of the peoples so that the divine message of salvation be known and accepted everywhere by the whole of humankind.” (Rule of the Lay Fraternities of St Dominic)



The members of the Dominican Laity European Council gathered recently (10-12 May, 2013) at Santa Sabina for their annual meeting. Present at the meeting were; Klaus Bornewasser (Germany), José Muñoz (Spain), Leny de Beemer (Netherlands), Ruth Anne Henderson (Italy), Eva Zodurova (Slovakia) and Jean-Michel and Miho Solente (France). They were in the company of the Promoter General for the Laity, fr David Kammler. The Council deliberated on current challenges and plans for the future.

During their meeting, they had some time to share with the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré on some pertinent common issues in the Order.

The Calendar of the Master of the Order for June 2013

1-2: Meeting with Spanish Nuns at Caleruega

3-4: Meeting with Rectors and Priors of Institutions Directly Under the Master

6-22: Canonical Visitation to the Province of Australia

23-26: Canonical Visitation to the General Vicariate of Chile

27-29: Canonical Visitation to Paraguay and Uruguay

30 June-9 July: Canonical Visitation to the Province of Argentina

All articles are available on the official website of the Order – www.op.org