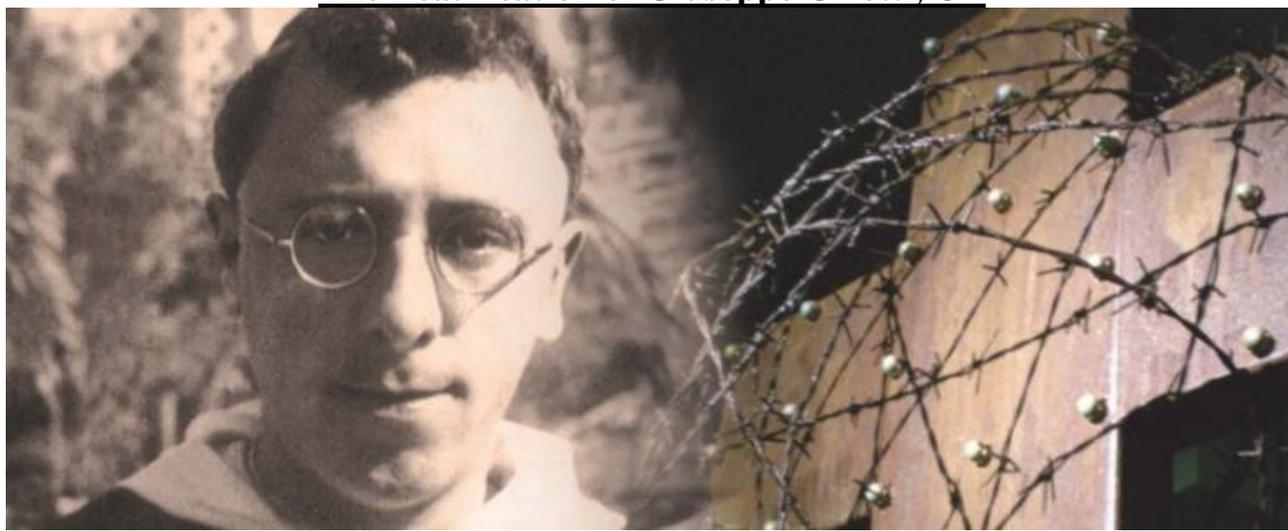




ORDER OF PREACHERS

**The Beatification of Giuseppe Girotti, OP**

On the 27th of March 2013, the Holy Father Pope Francis authorized Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to Promulgate the Decree on the Martyrdom of the Servant of God Giuseppe Girotti, a professed priest of the Order of Preachers. His beatification will take place on Saturday, 26th of April 2014 at Duomo di Alba in Cuneo, northern Italy, the city of his birth.

The solemn celebration will be presided over by the delegate of the Holy Father, Cardinal Giovanni Coppa. Also expected at the celebration are; Bishop Giacomo Lanzetti, Bishop of the Diocese of Alb with the priests, religious and faithful of the diocese and other bishops. The Master of the Order, Fr Bruno Cadore will also be there, accompanied by a host of Dominican brothers, sisters and laity.

The entire preparation is a combined effort of the office of the Postulator General of the Order in Santa Sabina, the Organizing Committee of the Province of St Dominic in Italy (frs Lodovico Montoli, Igor Barbini and Massimo Rossi) and the Diocese of Alba. After the joint meeting of the group, the following were decided; the official image which will be used for posters and other souvenirs, a booklet of about 40 pages on his life and process, a documentary film on his life and testimonies about his life and a programme of events to create the necessary awareness.

Special thanks goes to fr Ludovico Montoli who laboured for 30 years on the cause of our brother Giuseppe Girotti. Thanks also goes to all other brothers, living and dead, who have contributed in one way or the other towards the cause. Not forgetting the other members of the Dominican family especially the Dominican Nuns who prayed earnestly for the beatification.

Come April 26, all roads will lead to Alba where we shall celebrate our communion as Dominicans in union with the Universal Church. For promotional materials, please contact, Convento S. Bartolomeo, Largo Belotti, 1, 24121 BG; assimoros@domenicanibg.it.

His Profile:

Fr Giuseppe Girotti was born in Alba, in the northern part of Italy on the 19th of July, 1905. He was born of a humble family that were esteemed for their hard work and godliness. At the age of 13, he was convinced of his aspiration for the priesthood which led him to enter the Dominican Seminary of Chieri (TO). He was a



brilliant student, very lively and cheerful too. In 1923, he made his religious profession in “La Quercia”, near Viterbo and on August 3, 1930 he was ordained to the priesthood at Chieri.

He specialized in the interpretation of Scriptures at Angelicum, Rome and the Ècole Biblique of Jerusalem. At the Ècole Biblique, he was a student of the Servant of God Marie-Joseph Lagrange, OP and under him, he published his academic work, “Prolita in Sacra Scrittura” in 1934. He dedicated his life to the teaching of Scriptures at the Dominican Theological Seminary of Turin (S. Maria delle Rose). As a result of his extensive study of Scriptures, he published an extensive commentary on the Wisdom Books and the Prophet Isaiah.

Esteemed for his vast learning, he loved to exercise his priestly ministry among the poor and lonely especially at the hospice of the elderly which was close to his convent of S. Maria delle Rose, Turin. There came a period of trial and suffering for him, which he accepted in humility. He was deprived of further education and was transferred to the Convent of San Domenico in the historic centre of Turin. Despite this, he continued his research in Scriptures while intensifying the exercise of his priestly and charitable activities.

“Everything I do is for charity”, he candidly said once, indicating his continued growth in the virtue of charity.

After September 8, 1943, with the German occupation and the birth of the Italian Social Republic, Girotti began a centre for a vast network of support for Jews. His cultural affinity to Jews was nourished during his years of study in Jerusalem and further deepened by his actual study of Scriptures. It is in this sense that we understand his expressions “Carriers of the Word of God” and “Elder brothers” as referring to Jews. At this time, many of them, while facing persecution and much suffering, sought for safe havens and false documents for a new identity. Girotti was able to assist them in many ways.

His activities with Jews which were contrary to the Laws of the Fascist and Nazi led to his arrest on the 29th of August, 1944. He was betrayed by a spy who disguised as someone in need of help and he was taken to Villa Cavorette, the place where Girotti had hidden the Jewish Professor Joseph Diena. Girotti was subsequently arrested and imprisoned in the new prison at Turin. Despite the efforts of his prior to have him released, he was transferred first to San Vittore prison in Milan, then to the camp of Gries, Bozano and finally on the 5th of October 1944, he was taken to Dachau, Germany. According to Don Angelo Dalmaso, another priest with whom he was imprisoned, Girotti stood out for his generosity and openness toward the other inmates with whom he frequently shared the Word of God. He was imprisoned in Cabin 26 with a thousand other priests in a space that was originally meant for 180 inmates. Due to this condition, he became ill and was admitted at the infirmary.

On Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945, at barely 40years old, Girotti died. His death was probably aided by a lethal injection of gasoline as was the custom then. On his bunk, his fellow inmates wrote, “Here slept Saint Guiseppe Girotti”.

In 1988, the curia of Turin started the formal process for his canonization. On the 14th of February, 1995, 50years after his death, he received a posthumous medal as “Righteous Among the Nations”, a recognition from the State of Israel to all those who worked for the salvation of Jews during the Holocaust. His name is inscribed on the official list and a tree is planted in his honour at the Avenue of the Righteous at Yad Washem in Jerusalem. (The Postulator General of the Order)

Australia Day honour for Fr John Neill, OP

The brethren at St James' Glebe delight in the honour recently paid to their Prior, Fr John Neill, OP. Fr John was announced on Australia Day (26 January) as a recipient of the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for service to education, and to the Catholic Church in Australia.

The Order of Australia is an order of chivalry, and was established in 1975 by Her Majesty, the Queen of Australia. Citizens and worthy others are admitted to the Order on the basis of meritorious service or personal achievement, bringing honour to the Commonwealth.



Fr John has given many years of faithful service to institutes of Catholic education, including two secondary schools (1963-1999), the Dominican Order (as Master of Students, 1990-2000), both of Australia's Catholic universities (1990-present), and a large number of cooperative boards and educators' conferences.

Fr John received the Order of Australia Medal this May from Her Excellency, the Governor of New South Wales. According to Fr Anthony Walsh, the investiture ceremony went very well and Fr. John is now duly honoured with an OAM.

Congratulations, Fr John!

Dominican Sisters in Iraq: a tale of devotion and courage

The story of the Iraqi Dominican Sisters of St Catherine of Siena speaks of enduring struggle over more than a century to the present moment. It is a tale of hope and courage triumphing over despair and ignorance.

Guillaume de Montferrat was the first Dominican father to visit Iraq. He was the disciple of Saint Dominic, founder of the Dominican Order. Guillaume visited Mosul, northern Iraq, and Baghdad in 1235. Guillaume was followed by Riccoldo de Mont Croce, who travelled and preached extensively throughout the Middle East for over 12 years.

Riccoldo lived briefly in Baghdad, witnessing the sale of Christian slaves after the fall of Acre in 1291. A lone survivor, a Dominican nun, told him how the entire community had been put to the sword. He came across a mound of Dominican vestments, blood stained habits, breviaries and books.

During his stay in Baghdad, Riccoldo clashed with the local Nestorian Christians, preaching against them. He was allowed nonetheless by the ruling Mongol authorities to build his own church with the interdiction to preach in public. This enabled him to establish a foothold for the Dominican order in Iraq.

Father Pierre Duvall, the head of the Dominican mission in Iraq, facilitated the arrival of six French nuns. They reached Mosul on November 7, 1873. The newly arrived nuns set up a convent for the Dominican Sisters of the Presentation of Tours and later the Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena. Their original house still stands in Mosul.

From the outset, the order had a clear vision: to serve the Christian and all other Iraqis in equal terms. They wanted to provide religious education for girls and nursing the sick. The sisters engaged in catechesis work, pastoral work and hospital ministry. Initially, they set up many girls' schools and clinics in northern Iraq. The pious nuns served assiduously in the area around Mosul, travelling between numerous villages despite the rugged and often harsh winter terrain. They opened an orphanage and a primary school in Mosul. In the surrounding country side, workshops for sewing and embroidery were established. Many local women were taught how to read and write.

The Dominican nuns played a major role in establishing women monastic life in Iraq. They set up the first and the oldest congregation of Iraqi nuns in the history of modern Iraq. This was in Mosul in 1877. Women were recruited from diverse Eastern Catholic and non-Catholic traditions (Chaldean, Syriac, Orthodox, Armenian and Nestorians).

During World War One, the Turks and their Kurdish allies persecuted all the Christians under their domain. The area went into turbulence. Several Christian villages and dioceses were burned and pillaged. Death lurked in every corner. Seven of the nuns were killed, three of them were savagely tortured before they were killed, and the rest were all scattered.

Despite these tragic events, the nun's faith blossomed amid death and the devastation of war. The superior nun decided to approach the Holy Father in Rome to allow them to re-start their convent in Mosul. The permission was granted and they set up a new convent by the name of 'Saint Katrina Al Syriaia'. The building was inaugurated on April 30, 1927. It was a remarkable sight to see, women age 50-60 years consecrated to God, who for the first time would be called sisters and live under one roof.



In 1928 the Dominican Sisters of the Presentation opened a private school for girls and an orphanage in Bab Al-sharqi, a modern district of Baghdad. This was the first private school for girls and was unique for its high standards of education and discipline it offered. The school continued to be popular until it was put under the government jurisdiction during the early part of the 1970's.

During the thirties, the Presentation Sisters worked in many government hospitals of Baghdad as nurses. They taught nursing and Midwifery to Iraqi women. The first Iraqi nurse was a member of their order. The Dominican sisters felt that they have achieved their mission's objectives in Iraq and decided to return to France to rejoin their convent.

The Dominican Order needed somebody to enforce rules in the new convent. They got a nun from France to teach and uphold the rules for the convent. Sister Mary Amy was appointed to assist her and the convent director, who took care of the administration, until they elect the Mother Superior. On July 3, 1933, the religious committee met and voted for Sister Mary Amy to be the first General Superior and the first Mother Superior of the Convent of Saint Katrina Al Syriaia.

During her tenure, Sister Mary was able to open many kindergartens for girls and boys, helped many young women to live the Christian way. Mother Mary Amy before she became a nun, had opened many centres for teaching Christianity, mathematics and the Arabic language, in the North of Iraq.

In 1937 the Dominican sisters commissioned work to build a modern private hospital. It was inaugurated in 1950, with the name of St Raphael. A nursing school followed in 1962. The school trained and graduated hundred of nurses who served in the government health sector. More than 120 native Iraqi sisters belong to the congregation and at some point before the invasion of Iraq, the sisters ran 10 schools with over 2,500 students.

In 1992, the sisters opened the Al-Hayat maternity hospital, which offered a 24-hour emergency clinic. The Dominican sisters who serve at the hospital spend long hours helping the doctors to save the most dangerous cases of pregnancy.

After the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, most of the institutions run by the sisters remain closed or deserted, especially outside the autonomous region of Kurdistan. The hospital of St Raphael is still running, despite the killing and looting that goes on in Baghdad. It is managed by Sister Maryanne Pierre. The Sister, who studied nursing in the United States, remained steadfast and defiant to serve the Iraqi people. Sister Pierre kept treating patients even as bombs fell around her and looters ransacked nearby buildings.

"This is my job to stay here to help people," she said in an interview with CBS News. "Even during the first Gulf War we stayed. It's our duty to stay here for all the people."

On July 22, 2003, while everyone in the Motherhouse was sleeping, a missile hit the wing of the Novitiate where three postulants were asleep. The bomb shook the entire building, shattering all the windows. Thanks to divine care, none of the Sisters was injured by the bombing; only the building sustained damage. It was the first of many attacks on the Motherhouse over the ensuing years.

In an interview with the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, two Iraqi Dominican nuns recounted their efforts to serve the Church and the needy in the nation amidst war and violence.

"When the bombs started falling in Baghdad and people started to flee, we opened our convents to families," said one nun. "We gave people a place to stay ... Years ago, the government nationalized our Catholic schools. After the regime fell, the government gave the buildings back to us. We let displaced families stay in the schools, too. We made sure people had the necessities to live. Our pantries were always empty, because we always gave everything away." They added: "early in the crisis, especially in 2003 and 2004, most of Iraq's hospitals closed down, we ran the Al-Hayat Hospital in Baghdad, and we stayed open. We stayed open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We stayed open for the people."



Despite growing numbers of Iraqi Christians fleeing their country, the Dominican sisters are committed to their mission of helping to shape a better future for Iraq and all her people. They have set goals to build schools and hospitals for those remaining in Iraq and to give hope to all Iraqis.

By: Robert Ewan

Dominican Cloistered Nuns Announce Capital Campaign for Needed Monastery Expansion

The Dominican Nuns of the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary, Summit, New Jersey have launched a \$4 million capital campaign called “Making the Light Shine Brighter.” The first official kick-off event of the campaign will be held at St. Teresa of Avila Church’s Memorial Hall, Summit, on Sunday, May 18th. Rev. Brian G. Plate, pastor of St. Teresa’s and honorary chair of the Centennial Committee, will share the nuns’ dreams of building a small wing onto their monastic structure.

The purpose of the Campaign is to respond to the desire of the Church and the Dominican Order that those dedicated to the contemplative life should share their life of prayer, as well as to meet the needs of the growing community of nuns by a 5,500 square foot addition to the monastery.

The nuns built their monastery in 1939 but due to the Great Depression were never able to complete their monastery;

“Our facilities for welcoming the many people who come to our monastery to seek Christ and to share our life are severely inadequate,” said Sr. Judith Miryam, OP, Director of Advancement. “In the past 10 years we have experienced a constant increase in the numbers of people who come to our monastery. Often we have to turn people away because of lack of space. The new wing will enable us to provide people with the ability to experience our life of prayer, listen to the Word of God and be touched by the maternal intercession of the Mother of God.”

The new wing will include guest rooms, dining room, parlors and a gift shop which will feature their handmade Seignadou Soaps, Cloister Candles and crafted wood items from St. Joseph’s Woodshop as well as religious articles and books.

The lower level of the proposed wing will be for the nuns’ needs and include workrooms, offices and an exercise/therapy room. Due to the increasing number of vocations, rooms currently used as workrooms and offices are needed for monastic cells (bedrooms) for the new sisters in the community.

The new wing will be fully handicap-accessible. The chapel vestibule will be renovated to provide handicap accessibility to the chapel.

The driveway will be reconfigured for easier access with increased parking;

“From the very beginning of our foundation in 1919 we have been dependent on the Providence of God and He has never failed to provide for our needs through so many wonderful benefactors,” said Sr. Mary Catharine, OP, Vocation Directress. “Trusting in God’s constant care for us we are confident that He will open the hearts of many people to help us with this building project. We are looking for generous people who believe in the future of religious life and the importance of monasteries as vital places from which the Light of Christ shines upon our world in a special way.”

The nuns will be celebrating the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Order of Preachers by St. Dominic in 2016 and the 100th anniversary of the founding of their monastery in Summit in 2019. They hope to finish the new wing in time for their centennial celebration.

The Dominican Nuns have the privilege of Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and their monastery is open to the public from 6 AM to 7 PM daily. All are welcome to participate in the nuns’ life of prayer and experience the love and peace of Christ that can be found by spending time in prayer in their chapel. Daily Mass is at 7:15 AM and Sunday Mass is at 7:30 AM. The nuns’ schedule of prayer can be found on their website: www.summitdominicans.org.



For more information about the Dominican Nuns' Capital Campaign go the Nuns' website at www.summitdominicans.org or please contact Sr. Judith Miryam, OP, Director of Advancement at nuns100@summitdominicans.org.

IEOP General Assembly – Dublin 2014

The Annual Assembly of Provincials and Vicars of the entities of the Order throughout Europe was held in Dublin during Easter Week (22nd - 26th April). Hosted by fr. Gregory Carroll, Prior Provincial of the Irish Province, the assembly gathered at the conference centre of All Hallows College, on the north side of Dublin.

The twenty seven brothers representing their provinces and vicariates were: Fr. Francisco Javier Carballo (Prov. Hispaniae), fr. Gilbert Narcisse (Prov. Tolosana), fr. Michel Lachenaud (Prov. Franciae), fr. Fausto Arici (Prov. S. Dominici in Italia), fr. Francesco La Vecchia (Prov. S. Thomae Aq. in Italia), fr. Máté Barna (Vic. Gen. Hungariae), fr. Johannes Bunnenberg (Prov. Teutoniae), fr. John Farrell (Prov. Angliae), fr. Pawel Kozacki (Prov. Poloniae), fr. Martín Gelabert Ballester (Prov. Aragoniae), fr. Benedikt Tomaš Mohelník (Prov. Bohemiae), fr. Anto Gavrić (Prov. Croatica), fr. Pedro da Cruz Fernandes (Prov. Portugalliae), fr. Miguel De Burgos Nuñez (Prov. Beticae), fr. René Dinklo (Prov. Neerlandiae), fr. Gregory Carroll (Prov. Hiberniae), fr. Marcel Braekers (Prov. S. Rosae in Flandria), fr. Francis Micallef (Prov. S. Pii V Melitensis), fr. Christophe Holzer (Prov. S. Alberti Magni), fr. Didier Boillat (Prov. Helvetica), fr. Michel Van Aerde (Vice Prov. S. Thomas Aq. in Belgio), fr. Jacek Dudka (Vic. Gen. Russiae et Ucrainae), fr. Reginald Adrián Slavkovsky (Prov. Slovachiae), fr. Pedro Juan Alonso Merino (Vic. Reg. Dominae Nostrae de Rosario), fr. Alberto Fabio Ambrosio (Vic. Prov. in Rep. Turcanum), fr. Ivan Arzenšek (Vic. Prov. Sloveniae), fr. Paul-Dominique Masiolat (Vic. Prov. Daciae).

Six brothers and sisters assisted the assembly with an excellent translation service in the official languages of the Order: Sr. Marie Laetitia Youchtchenko, Sr. Marie-Theo Manaud, fr. Mario Jabares, fr. Alejandro Crosthwaite, fr. Jean-Ariel Bauza-Salinas, fr. Philip McShane. The assembly secretary was fr. Seamus Tuohy of the host province.

Five members of the General Curia also participated in the Assembly: fr. Bruno Cadoré (Master of the Order), fr. Prakash A. Lohale (Soc. pro Vita Apostolica), fr. Michael Mascari (Soc. pro Vita Intellectuali), fr. Wojciech Delik (Soc. pro Prov. in Europa centrali et orientali), fr. Vivian Boland (Soc. pro Prov. in Europa septentrioccidentali et pro Initiali Institutione).

The topic for discussion at this year's assembly was "The Intellectual Mission of the Dominican Order in Europe" and two guest speakers were present to address the assembly on this topic: fr. Liam Walsh (Prov. Hiberniae) and fr. Konštanc Adam (Rector, PUST, Rome). Fr. Michael Mascari and fr. Gerard Norton (Prov. Hiberniae) updated the provincials on the Chapter of Trogir in regard to the Studies and the implementation of the Acts of this Chapter.

On Friday morning the Master, fr. Bruno, addressed the assembly on the topic of 'Study as Mission', an essential aspect of our preaching, on the need for collaboration at many levels in this mission among the European provinces, on the redefinition of our objectives in maintaining institutions for study and research, and our service to other entities of the Order which do not have the resources that are available to our brothers in Europe. Fr. Michel Van Aerde addressed the assembly on the recent developments of the DOMUNI project. The assembly also allowed plenty of time for plenary discussion on the general topic of this year.

The assembly elected three members for a three year term to the IEOP Bureau: fr. Fausto Arici (Prov. S. Dominici in Italia); fr. Johannes Bunnenberg (Prov. Teutonia) and fr. Michel Van Aerde (Vice Prov. S. Thomas Aq. in Belgio). It was also agreed that the 2015 Assembly will take place at the convent of Madonna dell'Arco, Naples, hosted by fr. Francesco La Vecchia (Prov. S. Thomae Aq. in Italia).

Apart from the business of the assembly, the participating brothers and sisters celebrated the liturgy of the Easter Octave together in English, Spanish and French. The participants also had some opportunity to relax



and to enjoy each other's company in the exceptionally good weather of this Easter week. On Thursday afternoon the participants made an excursion to visit the fascinating megalithic site at Newgrange and Knowth in Co. Meath, and then on view the 9th Century Christian High Crosses at Monasterboice in Co. Louth, and returned via Drogheda, where the group joined the community of Dominican Nuns at Siena Monastery for Vespers, followed by a most convivial supper together with the Nuns. On Friday evening, the participants visited the Irish Dominican Studentate community at St. Saviour's, Dublin, to pray Vespers together with the brothers there, followed by supper in the convent.

Diaconate and Priestly Ordinations in the Vicariate of Eastern Africa

On the 5th of April 2014, the Vicariate of Eastern Africa raised 5 brothers to the Holy Orders. There were three deacons: Bros. Pio Gitonga Akotha, Emmanuel Mulu Mutisya and Bertrand Ndjana Tsanga (from Equatorial Africa Vicariate). And two brothers were ordained priests: Bros. Leo Simon I. Mwenda and Thomas Nicholas Odhiambo. The ordination was done by the Rt Rev Salesius Mugambi, bishop of the Diocese of Meru, Kenya, at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Parish in Nairobi. Two Socii of the Master of the Order on a visit to the Vicariate took part in this celebration. They were Bros. Michael Mascari, Socius for Intellectual Life and Prakash Anthony Lohale, Socius for Apostolic Life. Brother André Adoba, Councillor of IAOP for Intellectual Life was also present.

Bro. Leo reports: "As one of the brothers who was ordained and on behalf of my brothers I must express my gratitude to God, to all the brothers of the Order but especially to our IAOP brothers for what they have helped us to be thus far. We can't forget to thank our parents and all our family members for the support they have been giving and continue to give us in our vocation as Dominicans. A good number of our people in Africa are still opposed to the whole idea of religious life as some strange form of life that is not consonant with our cultures. But we thank God because I haven't heard any of our brothers express any opposition to his vocation suffered at the level of his family. We thank God for the gift of families that have faith".

"The priesthood and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ in which my brothers and I have become sharers is both an honour and a task. An honour because we do not deserve it, and a task because it is an invitation not only to commune with Christ more intimately but also to work in the person of Christ. For us Dominicans having been called to preach Christ for the salvation of souls, the grace of ordination brings with it a configuration to Jesus the Priest and Minister, and with the authority of the Church to minister hence making our preaching more effective. We pray that we may always accept the grace of God so as to keep a burning zeal for preaching Christ and the salvation of souls, in the fraternity of our Holy Father Dominic."

Congratulations, dear brothers! May God bless your ministry!

fr Gabriel Samba, OP

Resurrection Cake

The Lord is risen! He is truly risen. What began on Ash Wednesday with a call to a closer walk with Christ by fasting and abstinence culminated in the highest point of the Church's liturgy- The Triduum. In the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas, Ibadan, the Holy Thursday kicked off with a Chrism mass at the St. Mary's Cathedral, where the priests in the archdiocese gathered around their bishop, Rt Rev Gabriel Abegunrin, to renew their vows to the Holy Mother Church. The celebration was made even more colourful as it was the Archbishop's first Chrism mass in the Archdiocese of Ibadan since his installation earlier this year.

Few hours later, all the friars of the priory gathered to commemorate in a special way the Lord's Supper. The mass was celebrated by the former Socius to the Master of the Order, Bro. Cletus Nwabuzor. In his homily, he reminded us of the three important themes of the celebration of the day namely: the Holy Priesthood, the Holy Eucharist, and lastly, a call to service.

The Good Friday service began with the Stations of the Cross procession within the community. The service was celebrated by the prior of the community Bro. Dominic Mbomson. Some members of the worshipping community often refer to this day as a "black day" because this solemn service is usually marked with the tradition of wearing of the Cappa by all the friars in the community as an expression of its sober mood.



All these culminated in the celebration of the Easter Vigil and the solemn chant of the ‘Exultet’, beautifully rendered by one of the deacons Bro. Clement Uzoanya. The chief celebrant, who is at the same time the Registrar of the Dominican Institute of Philosophy and Theology, Bro. Kenneth Nkadi, helped the community partake actively in the liturgy where heaven and earth became one. It was as though, like the three disciples at the transfiguration, we all should remain there, as the blinding Light of the risen Lord filled the chapel.

As the Friars sat down for supper on Easter night, there came quite an amazing sight. At dinner, the community was presented with a cake, too gorgeous to describe. It was a cake of the resurrection tagged “EMPTY TOMB CAKE”. The cake depicted clearly what happened on the day of the resurrection. Right before the guards, the Glory of God rolled away the tomb stone, while the crucified Christ, resurrected in a glory that is unspeakable. The cake was made by the same novice brother (Uche Odikpo) who made the Summa cake on the feast of our brother Thomas Aquinas. Pictures were snapped with the cake after which it was consumed by the whole community. It was really a splendid Easter celebration for the members of the Priory. Truly, Christ has risen.

A GLORIOUS EXIT

With immense hope that the promise of Christ in 2 Cor. 15:20-24 will be our portion, the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas, where he lived until his death, and indeed the entire members of the Province of St Joseph the Worker mourn the death of her second oldest Nigerian Dominican by profession, Rev. Bro. Clement Tyulen who passed-on on the morning of April the 10th after a brief illness. Friar Clement Tyulen was a co-operator brother who worked for many years with Bro. Peter Martin Otillio and late Bro. Joseph Kenny in the northern part of Nigeria, before he was assigned to Ibadan some years ago.

He will be buried on Thursday, the fourth day in the octave of Easter. Let us remember to pray for the repose of his soul during our community prayers.

The Lord is Risen, Alleluia! Alleluia!

By Bro Onyenuru Paulinus.

DOMINICAN FORMATORS’ COURSE

Dominican formators from the Asia-Pacific region converged in Caleruega Retreat Center in the cool climate of Batangas for the 2014 Asia-Pacific Formators’ Course. This year’s course has the theme Dominican Formation for Mission in the Asia-Pacific. It was held from March 10 to April 6, 2014. The four-week course aimed to refresh and deepen its participants’ understanding of formation in the Dominican tradition while developing and adding new skills for their formation ministry.

The event was also a great opportunity for Dominicans from the Asia-Pacific region to share their insights and experiences with each other. Furthermore, the course sought to guide the formators “in updating their formation program in line with the Order’s contemporary apostolic thrusts in dialogue with cultures and religious traditions, especially of Asia; solidarity with the poor and the marginalized; and care for creation.”

The course was well-attended with thirty-four participants coming from at least five countries. The provinces and congregations present are as follows: Dominican friars from the provinces of India, Vietnam, Holy Rosary, Philippines, and Vice-Province of Pakistan; sisters from the Dominican congregations of Malta, Siena Thanh Tam, Siena Tam Hiep, Rose of Lima, Presentation, Pompeii, Adrian, Molo, Siena Philippines, DDIM, and DMIM.

Input was provided by speakers from different backgrounds and expertise. Fr. Rolando dela Rosa, OP began the course with a talk on the History of Dominican Mission in the Asia-Pacific. Fr. Edgar Javier, SVD continued the topic with his discussion of Mission Today in Asia-Pacific. A hands-on approach from the lay perspective was provided by Ms. Marilyn Quintana from the University of Sto. Tomas Simbahayan organization in her talk, Philippine Church Mission. Fr. Quirico Pedregosa, Jr., OP then began the series of talks leading to formation starting with Dominican Spirituality. He was followed by Fr. Percy Bacani, MJ with a lively discussion and reflection on Human and Sexual Development, Media and Gender Sensitivity. In addition, Fr. Vincent Lu Vien Ha, OP, the Assistant to the Master of the Order for the Asia-Pacific



Region, gave some reflections on the talk on human sexuality, which he had attended. Fr. Vincent also enlightened the participants with the Order's thrust in the Asia-Pacific Region. The next topic, Psycho-Spiritual Integration, was given by Ms. Cynthia Baga. This session was much cherished by the participants. An orientation on spiritual direction, counseling and prayer life followed given by Fr. Noel Deslate in his talk about Spiritual Accompaniment. Fr. Enrico Gonzales, OP, continued with an anecdotal sharing on Intellectual Formation. Lastly, Fr. Vivian Boland, OP, wrapped up the event with his talk on Formation for Preaching.

The participants expressed their deep gratitude and sincere appreciation for the welcome and hospitality of their hosts in Caleruega Retreat Center in Batangas as well as for the capable hands of Fr. Romualdo Cabanatan, Jr., OP, and Sr. Regina Ladoing, OP, the coordinators for the course. They were also grateful to the Dominican Province of the Philippines for the support and manpower it provided for the duration of their stay in the country. We congratulate our brothers and sisters for a job well done and we pray that they may be more fruitful in their "delicate ministry of accompanying others in the Dominican life." Deo gratias!

By Br. Jose Laureano J. de Jesus, OP

For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain

50 years in medio Ecclesiae

On the 1st of March 2014, Sister Anne-Lise of the Annunciation (Anne-Lise Strøm), Prioress of the Monastery of the Annunciation in Oslo, Norway, celebrated her Golden Jubilee of profession. It was an ecclesial celebration. This was an occasion to celebrate with joy and to give thanks for the fidelity both of God who called and of Sister Anne-Lise who answered the call with generosity.

Anne-Lise Strøm was born August 17th 1940 in Oslo, Norway. She had her first encounter with the Catholic Church that was to hold such an important place in her heart at the age of 7, when she was sent to the Catholic school in Oslo, run by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chambéry. Some years of her adolescence were spent in Cooma, Australia, where she was confirmed as a Lutheran on the 1st of November 1953. The meeting during these years with different nationalities, cultures and religions, was to leave an imprint on the young Anne-Lise that would contribute to her later commitment to being a bridge-builder, seeking to bring about unity, reconciliation and mutual understanding and dialogue between all kinds of people.

Back in her native Norway, Anne-Lise converted to Catholicism in 1957, and was received into full communion with the Church on December 7th. Only a few years later, the 1st of April 1961, she entered the Dominican Monastery of Mary Immaculate, Queen of the Rosary in Lourdes, as a postulant for the newly founded monastery in Oslo. Because the sisters there were in the process of constructing the new monastery building, Sister Anne-Lise received most of her formation in France, first in Lourdes, then in the now closed Monastery of Clairfontaine, Yvelines outside Paris. She began her novitiate in 1962, in Lourdes, and received the Dominican habit and the religious name Sister Anna-Elisabeth of the Annunciation. Her first profession was made in Clairfontaine the 29th of February 1964 – the basis for the upcoming jubilee.

Why choose such an unusual date for a profession? Well, as Sister Anne-Lise was a novice for the monastery of Oslo, the Prioress of that monastery, Sister Marie-Gertrude de la Trinité, came to receive her vows and the 29th of February was the only day she was available! As the young sister's deep concern at this time was the unity of the Church, both Catholics among themselves and among all Christians, the Mass celebrated was the Votive Mass for Christian Unity. Her device then was 2 Co. 5,18: "He gave us the ministry of reconciliation."

In 1967, Sister Anne-Lise rejoined Norway once again, and the following year she made her solemn profession in the Monastery of the Annunciation, Lunden, Oslo, on April 18th 1968. She now chose as her device Phil. 1,21: "For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain". Since then she has served the community as Prioress several periods and she has been Novice-Mistress for many years, as well as holding other offices and responsibilities in the community.

Profoundly dedicated to the Dominican Order as a whole, Sister Anne-Lise has also been engaged in work for the Order in a wider context than just her own monastery. From 1982 - 1983 she was a member of the



Commission revising the Constitutions of the Nuns of the Order of Preachers. From 1992 – 1998, she was President of the federation of Dominican Monasteries in France, *Fédération Notre Dame des Prêcheurs*, to which the monastery in Oslo belongs, and she especially worked to unite the, at the time, two existing federations into one. Willing to take on services both for the Order and the Church, her two great passions, she has also been of help for many other communities in one way or the other, and most recently she has been active in the process of establishing the Conference of Nordic Monastic Superiors, an association bringing together the superiors of the female monastic communities in the Nordic countries.

We invite you all to share in our joy and thanksgiving and pray that the Lord continues to bless Sister Anne-Lise and, with and through her, her loved ones and all those she encounters.

Dominican Nuns, Oslo/Norway

Canonization of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II: Its meaning for Asia

Two great religious leaders and supreme pastors of the Catholic Church namely; Blessed Pope John XXIII and Blessed Pope John Paul II have a great historical significance for the Church in the modern world. They enjoy great respect in the hearts and minds of the Catholics. All other Christian denominations and believers of different religions have also paid rich tribute to their tremendous leadership.

Pope John XXIII set a tone and agenda for the 20th century and how to read the signs of the time and how Church should respond to the challenges it is confronted with in the modern world. The invocation of the Vatican Council II by Pope John was a clear sign that how the Church can respond to the challenges in the modern world and how to make message of Christ relevant. Although he died in the year 1963 his vision, mission and inspiration is strongly reflected in the 16 documents of the Vatican Council II, which respond to the situation of the Church in the age lived, whether it is religious freedom laity, religious life, evangelization mission, proclamation, dialogue, and Church in the modern world. These documents have renewed the approach of the Church to its members and people of all religions. These have great significance for the Christians in Asia as well.

Pope John Paul II being supreme pastor of the Church led his flock for 26 years. He took us from the second millennium to the third millennium as a great dynamic leader. He left remarkable and very significant impact not only on the Church but also upon the people of all religions and political states as well. He was respected by all whether Christians or non-Christians; Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Zoroastrians and people of different spiritualities. He was the most travelled Pope – Supreme Pastor of the Catholic Church. He travelled around the globe and lefts lasting marks upon humanity. He was very humble, dynamic, open to the people of other religions and great promote of interreligious dialogue and ecumenism. He also made pastoral visits to several Asia countries such as: Pakistan, India, Singapore, Philippines, Hong Kong and South Korea etc. He was very warmly welcome by the inhabitants of these countries and has left lasting marks upon us – the Asian inhabitants.

The cradle of all major religions

Asia is the cradle of all major religions; Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Zoroastrianism, Jainism, Islam, Shintoism and Sikhism. God sent his Prophets and revealed holy books upon them. It is the dwelling place of two third of the world population. The land of Asia manifests the plan of salvation of the entire world. God revealed himself through the Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament) and finally through his only son Jesus Christ – so that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

While on the other side we find that Asia is confronted with many crises and challenges such as of; poverty, illiteracy, injustice, child labor, discrimination on the basis of caste, creed and gender is very commons in Asia. There are millions of people who are living below poverty level. They do not have enough to eat, clothe or have shelter to live in. There is also a strong wave of terrorism, fanaticism, fundamentalism. In some countries terrorist attacks and suicide bombing have become very common. There is a lack of cleaning water. Millions of people have died of religiously motivated violence. There are problems faced by women as they are not given just rights and status in the society. There is a grave issue of law and order. There is a



grave need of interfaith harmony, peace, acceptance and respect of one another. There is grave need to freedom of religion and its expressions.

In such a scenario I find that Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II have great significance to bring a positive change in the society. Both left lasting impact and significance upon the Church in Asia. It is a reality that in Asia – the place where Jesus Christ was born- Church remains a tiny minority of about 3%. The continent of Asia is most populated. Two third of the world populations lives here and most of the people belong to other religions. They are either, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, Zoroastrians, Jains, and Sikhs etc. Christians remain a tiny minority. The Church in Asia is “Salt of the earth and light of he world”. (Matt. 5. 12-13)

In our Asian situation the encyclical of Pope John XXIII *Pacem in Terris* is of prime importance. It can influence immensely for the struggles of Asian people on how to addressed many challenges we are confronted with as well the challenge of dialogue among people of different religions and especially between Muslims and Christians. It also poses many challenges to us as well. *Pacim in Terris* has set before men and women of good will an immense task for all, especially for us living in Asia. For example, in number 163 of the encyclical, we read: “Hence among the very serious obligations incumbent upon men of high principles, we must include the task of establishing new relationships in human society, under the mastery and guidance of truth, justice, charity and freedom – relations between individual citizens, between citizens and their respective states, between states, and finally between individuals, families, intermediate associations and states on the one hand, and the world community on the other. There is surely no one who will not consider this a most exalted task, for it is one which is able to bring about true peace in accordance with the divinely established order.”

Although this encyclical was written 51 years ago, it is very significant for our times as well. Its importance in Asia is even more relevant, and it poses for us great challenges in overcoming the crises we are faced with and establishing lasting peace in this continent. This encyclical has established principles that are featured in some of the documents of the Vatican Council II is wonderful to know that *Pacem in Terris* was the first encyclical that the Pope did not address to Catholics only, but to “all men of good will”. So it is for all the people of Asia, for Christians and Muslims, and people of all other religions. It encourages and inspires us to do what is good based on truth, justice and charity to bring peace and harmony to our society. Peace is an ongoing process, not just an absence of armed conflict.

In this encyclical Pope John laid great emphasis on basic human rights, in this order: the right to life, bodily integrity, food, clothing, shelter, rest, medical care and necessary social services (a.11), the right to respect for one’s person, a good reputation, freedom to search for the truth, freedom of speech and freedom of information (a.12), the right to worship (a.14), freedom to choose one’s state of life and to form a family (a.15), freedom of initiative in the economic field, the right to work (a.18), the right to adequate working conditions (a.19), a proper wage (a.20), private property (a.21), freedom of assembly and association (23), the right to the juridical protection of rights (a.27) and the right to act freely and responsibly (a.34). This is what we want to see realized in Asia.

Welcome people

Pope John Paul II has left a great inspiration for the people of Asia. He was a great religious leader. He was for the freedom of religion. He was for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue. He was reached out to meet and welcome people of different religions both in the Vatican and to which ever country he went. He gave boost to the Christians in Asia in his encyclical letters. In particular his encyclical *Ecclesia in Asia*, offers us ongoing inspiration and great courage to be proud to be Asian Christians. It serves as a remarkable guide for preaching, proclaiming Christ to the people around us and thus for the expansion of the Church. The document stated that “just as in the first millennium the Cross was planted on the soil of Europe, and in the second on the that of the America and Africa, we can pray that in the Third Christian Millennium a great harvest of faith will be reaped in this vast and vital continent of Asia” (AE 1). So the mission of proclamation is entrusted to it. The same encyclical Pope John Paul acknowledges of the “importance of dialogue as a characteristics mode of the Church’s life in Asia” (AE 3) He explains that dialogue “ is not simply strategy for peaceful coexistence among peoples; it is an essential part of the Church’s mission.... A veritable vocation for the Church.” (EA 31). Dialogue is “more than a way of fostering mutual knowledge



and enrichment; it is a part of the Church's evangelization mission, an expression of the mission ad gentes" (EA). This dialogue is linked with evangelization. So both dimension of the mission of the Church are of prime importance in Asia. There is also great emphasis on ecumenism. All these dimensions of the mission of the Church are of prime importance for us in Asia.

Therefore, it is really wonderful that both of the great popes will be canonized. Their life and teachings will remain a great inspiration for the people of Asia. It will help us in our mission of evangelization, interreligious dialogue, ecumenism, of speaking for human rights, equality, justice, freedom of thought and freedom of religion and expression of religious practices. Their lives help to keep on struggling equal right of all, for collaboration among nations and religions. To speak for the rights of the oppressed, minorities and marginalized. They also inspire us to be firm in our faith, no matter how many difficulties or challenges come on our way as Christians. We must keep Christ in front of us to suffered, died and rose on the third day for us and for our salvation. Let us be proud as Christians, the followers of Christ and as Asian as Christ – the Word of God – was incarnated in Asia.

Fr. James Channan OP (Director of the Peace Center of the Dominican Order in Pakistan)

125th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Dominican Congregation of Oakford

The Dominican Sisters of Saint Catherine of Siena of Oakford, Natal celebrated the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation with a Mass of thanksgiving in the chapel at Oakford near Verulam, KwaZulu Natal, on 30 March 2014. Three bishops, several priests, parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish, former students and teachers from the different Oakford schools, and many friends from various parts of the country joined the sisters in marking the exact date 125 years before when the first eight sisters had arrived at Oakford, and in giving thanks for the presence and fidelity of God over so many years.

Sr Paula-Mary van der Walt, Congregational Prioress, welcomed all present, outlining something of the faith journey undertaken by the pioneer sisters who had left what was known in Augsburg/Germany and in King Williamstown/Eastern Cape for a mission among people of a different culture at the invitation of Bishop Charles Jolivet of the Vicariate of Natal.

Oakford was the second mission established by Bishop Jolivet in the Vicariate. The first Oblate mission had been established at the Bluff in Durban among freed Zanzibari slaves, some of whom were subsequently settled at Oakford to form the nucleus of the new mission.

In less than a year a branch house of the King Williamstown Dominicans became a new diocesan Congregation. It was affiliated to the Dominican Order in 1915, and became a Congregation of pontifical right in 1926. The Congregation spread across four continents, with sisters engaged in education, health care, and various forms of social outreach to those on the margins of society. It experienced great growth from 1889 to the 1970s and there were many young sisters. Today there are few young sisters, and the Congregation has had to let go of houses and ministries.

In his homily Cardinal Napier reiterated the importance of looking back in thanksgiving and looking forward in faith, trusting in the plans of God. Bishop Barry Wood noted with appreciation his long association with Oakford, going back to his Young Christian Student days and remembering the beauty of Compline sung in the chapel when it was full of sisters.

The Oakford property no longer belongs to the Congregation. Part of I, including the cemetery, has been expropriated because of the proposed raising of the Hazelmere Dam wall. Provision has been made by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry to secure the stability of graves against possible future flooding, and a new monument constructed on higher ground, noting the names of all the deceased sisters of the Congregation.

Visit of the Dominican sisters of Oakford to the Dominican sisters of Montebello

As part of the celebration of the 125th anniversary since the foundation of Oakford in 1889, the Dominican Sisters of Oakford embarked on a pilgrimage at the end of March 2014 to some of the places associated with the history and expansion of the Congregation.



The third station of the pilgrimage was to Montebello in the Dalton area of KwaZulu Natal to visit the Dominican Sisters of Montebello, a diocesan- and a daughter- Congregation of Oakford. Dominican Sisters have lived at Montebello since 1904, with the formal establishment of the new Montebello Congregation taking place in 1938.

During a meaningful prayer service celebrating the Dominican heritage and charism, Sr Celestine Ndlovu (Montebello) gave a powerful reflection on Dominican values in South Africa today, challenging all present to hold fast to the four pillars of prayer, study, community life and preaching.

There has been collaboration between the two Congregations around the training of novices and in various Dominican projects. The visit opened new doors for collaboration around research into the shared history of the two Congregations.

The visit concluded with a visit to the cemetery, and a prayer for all deceased members of both Congregations.

THE ERECTION OF “OUR LADY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT MONASTERY” OF THE DOMINICAN NUNS IN VIET NAM

On the Solemn Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord (March 25th, 2014), The Most Reverend Dominic Nguyen Chu Trinh, Bishop of Xuan Loc Diocese proclaimed the Decree of the canonical erection of the Dominican Monastery in Xuan Loc Diocese and presided at the Thanksgiving Mass. All took place at Ngu Phuc church, Ho Nai 3 at 9:00 a.m. Together with Bishop Dominic were the Most Reverend Paul Nguyen Thai Hop, OP, Bishop of Vinh Diocese, Fr. Joseph Ngo Si Dinh, OP, Prior Provincial of Dominicans in Vietnam, Cistercian and Benedictine Abbots and Abbesses, and approximately 50 priests concelebrated at the Mass. Sr. Mary Thomas, O.P., and Sr. Mary Pauline, O.P. representing Sr. Mary Peter, OP, Prioress of the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament in Farmington Hills, MI, USA, which sponsored the new foundation, were also present, along with many Sisters from the Federation of the Dominican Congregations in Vietnam. Superiors and clergy belonging to the Diocesan Congregations and others along with our Lay Dominicans, relatives, benefactors and guests of the Monastery.

Mass began with the procession of the seventeen sisters of the Monastery followed by all the priests, and two Bishops who proceeded to the altar. Bishop Paul Nguyen Thai Hop, OP., formally proclaimed the Decree of the Holy See with regard to the approval of the canonical erection of our Dominican Monastery. This was followed by the proclamation of the Decree of canonical erection in his diocese granted by the Bishop of Xuan Loc Diocese. Subsequently, Fr. Joseph Ngo Si Dinh, OP, Prior Provincial of Dominicans in Vietnam and Vicar of Master General of the Order, Fr. Bruno Cadoré, OP, proclaimed the appointment of the first new Prioress of Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Dominican Monastery.

Sister Anne-Jeanne Nguyen Thi Hao, OP came forward prostrating on the floor to show her obedience in accepting the responsibility of being Prioress, in accordance to Dominican traditional rite. She will begin her office starting from the date of canonical erection with a 3-year term. As a sign of obedience to their new Prioress, the professed and novitiate sisters bowed their heads; the Prioress, in turn, embraced each of them as a sign of peace and joy.

In his homily, Bishop Paul Nguyen Thai Hop, OP (Bishop Dominic was not in a very good health to preach), talked about the revolution of information, new technologies, internet all over the world nowadays and the consequences it brings. Dating back to more than two thousand years, at the beginning of Christianity, a miraculous and unique event occurred when the angel Gabriel announced the Incarnation of the Son of God so that human beings could be called children of God. With her “Behold, I am the handmaid of God, be it done unto me according to your word”, the Son of God was made man. As soon as the angel departed, the Virgin Mary set out to bring Good News of salvation to her cousin Elizabeth and to the whole world.

This year the Feast of Annunciation is also an outburst of joy for the Dominican family, in particular, and God’s people in general, because Bishop Dominic granted the canonical erection of Dominican Monastery of Our Lady of the Holy Spirit at this beloved Ngu Phuc parish within his Diocese. Indeed, the Dominican



Family has been preparing for this event to be proclaimed for many years. “In former times Dominican Monasteries came to existence first, followed by the foundation of the Friars of The Order of Preachers and then the other members of the Dominican family: today in Vietnam, due to the historical circumstances, this Monastery becomes the youngest child in her big family”.

After Communion, Bishop Dominic Nguyen Chu Trinh offered a beautiful bouquet of flowers to the new Prioress and gave his teaching in the spirit of a shepherd for the monastic nuns and the whole community. He said, “I’d like to express the great joy of the Xuan Loc Diocese, the Dominican Province in Vietnam, the clergy and honorable guests. Yes, it is a joy to have the presence of the Monastery of Our Lady of the Holy Spirit as a valuable treasure which has been buried in the ground for 12 years of their devoted lives.

Sr. Jeanne Hao, OP., the new Prioress, expressed her gratitude to the Bishops, priests, clergy and the faithful. The aspirants of the Monastery then offered fresh bouquets of flowers to the Bishops and Superiors as a sign of gratitude.

The Mass ended with the proclamation of the Pontifical Blessing of the Holy Father, Pope Francis. Thanks be to God for all the wonderful things He has accomplished for us!

IV PREDICARTE: A Meeting of the Artists of the Dominican Family in Latin America and the Caribbean

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Dominican Family:

We come today to summon you to participate in IV Predicarte, a Meeting of the Artists of the Dominican Family in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Guatemala City from September 27 to October 3, 2014.

From the origins of our Order, art has been considered a means of preaching, in which the mystery of God is revealed, shared and announced. It is our wish to prepare for the celebration our Dominican Jubilee keeping in mind what has been a significant way of preaching in our continent.

We chose as the motivational motto for our meeting: "And he dwelt among us." Art, Culture and preaching. It is from there that want to reflect, share and create our art together.

In our meetings we seek the harmonize our charism from the point of view of beauty, in so doing, we dedicate time to prayer and celebration, studying from the established perspectives in order to share our artistic experience and also through workshops, in which we can develop new techniques or enjoy together in artistic expression. What is becoming an established practice is the mural that we all make together as a testimony of our passage through the places that welcomes us. In our IV Predicarte the experience of shared preaching from art will take place in a marginal school run by the Dominican Sisters of the Annunciation so that the ministry of beauty can be a source of hope amid the sorrow.

We invite all members of the Dominican family, sisters, nuns, friars and lay people who are developing their creativity at the service of preaching through any form of art such as, music, literature, poetry, plastic arts, theater, dance, multimedia, photography, film, crafts, corporal expression, etc.. We are open to all dimensions of beauty in its many manifestations.

The meeting will take place at Veritas House, located at 31 -80 2nd Street, Zone 7, Utatlán I, in Guatemala City. Tel /fax: (502) 2439-2555. You can visit the site: <http://casaveritas.com/>

The meeting cost is estimated between \$US 150 or 200, which includes registration, lodging, meals, materials and sightseeing with the group. Closer to the date we will inform the final cost.

The exhibition of our works will take place in the hall where the meeting is held. The transportation and exhibition of the works of art will be the responsibility of each the participants. There will be an artistic show for those disciplines that need to be performed.



We recommend paying special attention to the data requested in the Registration Form. Registration will close on July 1, 2014 and so give us enough time to properly organize the workshops. Please email the Registration Form to: artistas@codalc.org, in the SUBJECT line place your last name and the word “registration”.

We will be sending the schedule of planned activities and more information that will be useful to all those attending.

Hoping that all who are drawn to the many forms of art may be encouraged to participate and thus continue to build our space as Artists of the Dominican Family in Latin America and the Caribbean, we salute you invoking the blessing of our

Father Dominic and the Blessed Angelico who showed us the way to God through beauty.

In the fellowship of our charism:

Organization Team: artistas@codalc.org

Sister Valeria Nougues, op. General Coordinator and Secretary of CODALC

Sister Brigitte Loire, op. – México – Artists Association

Rossana Aguilar – Artists Association's Communications Secretary

Ana Cecilia Aguirre – Argentina – Image Coordinator

Friar Luis Roberto Aguilar, op. – Guatemala – Local Coordinator

Friar Carlos Cáceres, op. Province Prior- Central America – CIDALC

Official News

He has risen indeed!

“To speak on behalf of God is to allow the breath of God to inspire our human words in such a way that they witness to the presence and to the "life with us" of one who is greater than us all.”

Happy Easter!

Fr Bruno Cadoré, OP

Novena of the Jubilee of the Order (2014)

The Dominican Laity and Preaching

Bishop Tomás Balduino, OP RIP

The Dominican family of the Province of Frei Bartolomeu de las Casas in Brazil and indeed, the entire Dominican family of Latin America and the Caribbean wishes to announce the passing to eternal glory of fr Tomás Balduino, Bishop Emeritus of Goiás, Brazil. He died on the 2nd of May, 2014 at the age of 91. He is well known as an advocate for justice especially for the poor and the indigenous people in Brazil.

He was born in 1922 in Poose, Goiás, Brazil. He entered the Order, made his first profession in 1943 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1948. In 1967, he was appointed the Coadjutor Prelate of Santíssima Conceição do Araguaia and the Titular Bishop of Vicus Pacati all in Brazil. In November that same year, he was ordained as the Bishop of Goiás. He remained the Bishop of the Diocese of Goiás until his retirement in 1998.

He was buried on Sunday, 4th of May 2014 at the Church of San Judas Tadeo de Goiânia after a funeral Mass. May his soul rest in peace.

Fr Gerardo Wilmer Rojas Crespo, OP RIP

We recommend to your prayers our brother Gerardo Wilmer Rojas Crespo who passed away on Wednesday, 16 April 2014. He is of the Vice Province of Bolivia.

Fr Wilmer was born in 1964 and made his first profession in the Order in 1987. In 1994, he was ordained to the priesthood and went on to study Church History.



In September 2008, he was appointed the Archivist of the Order and assigned to the Convent of Santa Sabina, Rome. He was faithfully overseeing this responsibility until he became sick and could no longer shoulder the responsibility. He returned to Bolivia and had since been in the fraternal care of the brothers of his vice province and that of his natural family until he answered the eternal call.

May his soul rest in peace.

OBITUARY: Thomas Kamainda Bakutu, OP

Brother Justin ADRIKO, OP, Vicar General of the Vicariate General of St. Pius V in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) recommends to our prayers, Brother Thomas KAMAINDA BAKUTU, OP, who passed away on Thursday, April 3, 2014 in Kinshasa due to ill health, at the age of 83 years.

The "Patriarch", as the brothers used to call him affectionately, was born on February 1, 1931. He made his profession in the Order of Preachers on February 16, 1954 and was ordained to the priesthood August 2, 1959. Brother Thomas was three times Vicar General of the Vicariate General of the Congo. First from 1979 to 1983 and he was re-elected on November 9, 1983 for a second term, which ended in 1987. Finally he was elected for a third term August 21, 1996.

Brother Thomas was one of the pioneers of the Inter-Africa (IAOP). The Coordinating Committee of IAOP which held a meeting in December 2013 in Johannesburg, South Africa in preparation for the 12th General Assembly of the IAOP to be held in Nairobi, Kenya from 20 to 27 July 2014, where we will be celebrating the Jubilee of the 800 years of the Order and 40 of the Inter-Africa, had chosen him among the three pioneers who have to pass the torch to younger generations. But the Lord has decided otherwise. The IAOP will certainly honor him.

Before the announcement of his burial arrangement, we continue to recommend our brother to the mercy of God and to keep the Vicariate General of St. Pius V in DR Congo in our prayers.

Fr. Gabriel Samba, op

Calendar of the Master of the Order for May 2014

27 April-6 May: Canonical Visitation to the Province of Betica

7-15: Canonical Visitation to the Vicariate of the Province of the Holy Rosary in Spain

16: Meeting with Italian Dominican Nuns in Rome

19-30: Plenary Meeting in Santa Sabina

25: At the Assembly of the Dominican Laity of Europe in Bologna

All articles are available on www.op.org