



ORDER OF PREACHERS



INTER-AFRICA O.P. – PREACHING IN AFRICA



At the initiative of the Master of the Order, the late Bro. Vincent de Couesnongle. Dominican brothers living in sub-saharan Africa, met at Ibadan (Nigeria) in April 1976. This first General Assembly of the Dominicans of Africa proposed the creation of a structure to promote collaboration and mutual support among all the brothers working in sub-Saharan Africa. It was called INTER- AFRICA O.P., abridged as IAOP.

The INTER-AFRICA O.P. is a structure at the service of fraternal communion and of the mission of the Order on Africa. It offers its members a place for reflection, dialogue and collaboration, especially in the areas of formation, intellectual life and the mission of the Order.

The Mission Mandates in Puerto Rico

The Socius of the Master of the Order for Apostolic Life fr. Prakash Lohale, OP, visited the General Vicariate of the Holy Cross in Puerto Rico in the month of October 2013. Brother Prakash was able to come across most of the ministries in which the Dominicans in Puerto Rico realize their mission, despite their small numbers—there are only 14 friars solemnly vowed. Thus, the Socius for Apostolic Life had the opportunity to visit the Bayamón Central University and its Graduate School of Theology (CEDOC), the Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas (Elementary and High) and Santa Rosa High, the House of Preaching San Vicente Ferrer adjacent to Our Lady of the Rosary Convent, and the parishes of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (Cataño), Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Catherine of Siena, Santo Domingo de Guzman, Invention of the Holy Cross (all in Bayamón) and the Shrine to St. Martin de Porres (Cataño).

On Thursday, October 10th, fr. Prakash met in CEDOC with a good group of representatives from the various fraternities and associations of the Dominican Laity in Puerto Rico. During the gathering, he shared with attendees a reflection on the "Mission Mandates" of the Order, as they were addressed in the last General Chapter of Trogir, especially the "Salamanca Process". After the presentation, the lay Dominicans in Puerto Rico had the opportunity to share their experiences with fr. Prakash, including the diversity of charisms of each specific fraternity.

A similar dialogue was held by the Socius for Apostolic Life with in a fraternal meeting with the friars on Friday, October 11. During that morning, fr. Prakash spoke to the friars about some ways to contribute to the



dialogue on the "Mission Mandates" of the Order. A special time was devoted to discuss how to implement the "Process Salamanca" establishing a deeper dialogue between the academic work of the university mission of the friars in Puerto Rico and the pastoral fronts in Bayamón, Cataño (north Island) and Yauco (South Island).

The Dominican friars in Puerto Rico founded Bayamon Central University (UCB) in 1961 as a branch of the current Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico. Since 1970, UCB has autonomy with license by the Department of Education of Puerto Rico, as well as regional accreditation by an U.S. agency. In 1991, with the implementation in Puerto Rico of Ex Corde Ecclesiae, it was recognized as a Catholic university by the Puerto Rican Conference of Bishops, along with the other two Catholic universities in the country. The University has five academic colleges and a school of theology, 65 different professional programs among certifications, associate, bachelors and master degrees. The Graduate School of Theology (CEDOC) is affiliated to the Faculty of Theology at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Rome and professionally accredited by the Association of Theological Schools of U.S. and Canada, and offers theological and ministerial training to three dioceses and several Religious congregations in Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, and U.S. Hispanic seminarians.

Romanus Cessario, O.P., on Catholicism in the Twentieth Century

On November 11, 2013, the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception will host Fr. Romanus Cessario, O.P. for a lecture on Catholicism in the twentieth century, on the occasion of Fr. Romanus' receipt of the highest intellectual award of the Dominican Order, the Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.).

The Constitutions of the Order of Preachers states that the "mastership in sacred theology is conferred on those brothers who are considered eminent in promoting the sciences, especially the sacred sciences... To be promoted a master in sacred theology, it is required that a brother be commendable for his life and prudence," in addition to a record of total dedication to intellectual work (LCO 96, 97).

As part of this honor, the Constitutions requires the newly promoted Master to give a public lecture. It is the PFIC's high privilege to be both the site of Fr. Romanus' initial philosophical and theological formation (S.T.B. '70, S.T.L. '72), and the site of Fr. Romanus' official inaugural lecture as a Master of Sacred Theology.

The lecture will be held in Aquin Hall in the PFIC, 487 Michigan Ave NE, Washington, D.C., at 7:30 P.M., and will be followed by a reception. No reservation is required. See here for more information about the lecture. — Province of St. Joseph

"Living the Episcopacy": Archbishop Legaspi's Launches a New Book

Caceres Archbishop Emeritus Leonardo Legaspi, OP, launched his latest book, "Living the Episcopacy," on 20th September. Attended by prominent members of society, the religious and the lay faithful, the launch was held at the Basilica Hall, Basilica Minore de Penafrancia Compound in Naga City. Three presenters, chosen according to the book's target audience, gave practical and terse reviews of it. Judge Corazon Tordilla, University of Nueva Caceres (UNC) Dean of Faculty - Civil Law, represented the lay faithful; Caceres Vicar General Msgr. Rodel Cajot, P.C. stood for the Caceres Clergy and Daet Bishop Gilbert Garcera spoke in behalf of the Philippine Bishops.

Both Tordilla and Cajot gave intensive descriptions of the outline and content of the book. Both discussed the four divisions with which the essays were organized accordingly. From the standpoint of an active lay person, "Living the Episcopacy" provides insight into and a greater understanding of the extraordinary life of a Bishop; while at the vantage point of the Clergy, it gives not only a more intensive explanation of selected Church teachings but also adds meaning to one's ministry. In fact, Garcera exhorted, during his review, that young Bishops must read it, for a first-hand experience of the book "lifts one's vision to higher sights, builds a personality beyond one's normal limitations".

Illustrated by Cajot as Abp. Legaspi's "fruits of pastoral experience and reflection", Living the Episcopacy is a compilation of lectures, homilies, speeches, and statements delivered by Abp. Legaspi during his active



years in the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (1988-1991) and as Archbishop of Caceres (1984-2012). Published by the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Publishing House, this rich collection of Abp. Legaspi's works was neatly put together, carefully selected and edited, by his former Secretary, now Naga Parochial School Director, Fr. Rex Andrew Alarcon.

In his introduction, Alarcon did not only provide a concise and historical perspective on the book, but also emphasized the character behind the man everyone knew as Abp. Legaspi. Described as "gifted with a clarity of vision", Caceres Archbishop Rolando Tria Tirona complimented his predecessor as being part of the Golden Age of Bishops.

Living the Episcopacy, a written epitome of Abp. Legaspi's motto: illuminare omnes, to enlighten all men, is a partner of The Caceres Experience, a book on the Archbishop's pastoral leadership in the said Archdiocese. At the launch, Abp. Legaspi said, "This is the story of Caceres. And I just happen to be the Archbishop." Ms. Natalie Hazel P. Quimlat

The new academic year at the College of Philosophy and Theology of the Polish Dominicans

About 50 students officially started the academic year at the College of Philosophy and Theology of the Dominicans in Kraków - one of the oldest Polish universities.

The College started the new academic year under the leadership of its new rector, Fr Paweł Klimczak. He succeeds Fr Michał Paluch who is going to devote himself to more intensive scientific research.

Fr Paweł Klimczak is 38 years old. In 1994, he entered the Dominican novitiate and seven years later he was ordained. Until 2012 he lived in the convent of Saint-Hyacinthe in Fribourg, Switzerland, where he obtained his Bachelor Degree, and then the Doctorate in Dogmatic Theology. He was also a University Chaplain at the University of Fribourg and the Master of Students of the Swiss Dominican Province of Fribourg. At his return to Poland, he became the assistance master of students and later the sub-prior of the Kraków convent. In the past academic year he taught Christology and Eschatology at the College. This year he will teach Mariology and Fundamental Theology.

In his homily at the opening Mass, Fr Klimczak recalled that "revelation is given to intelligent beings who are invited to get to know God in Jesus Christ, but also God who is present in the world."

"The scope of our studies is to reach the gift of salvation and the truth which takes us to the ultimate Truth, which is the true God Himself. We study as well in order to help others to get to know God" - said Fr Klimczak.

The rector also stressed that "the man who has a false image of God will have a false image of the others and, consequently, a false image of himself."

The Mass for the intention of the students and faculty of the College was celebrated at the Kraków Basilica of the Holy Trinity, by the Provincial Superior of the Polish Dominican Province - Fr Krzysztof Popławski. Fr Provincial prayed for God's blessings for a successful academic year.

Earlier at the St. Thomas Aquinas Hall, the German Dominican - Fr Thomas Griessbach delivered the inaugural lecture in Polish, entitled "Called to Preach: Reflections on the Essence of the Sermon".

Fr Griessbach lamented that "homiletics is today at the outskirts of the theological disciplines." He added that "pushing the theology of preaching into the shadow zone is contrary to the teachings of the Second Vatican Council," which - as he said - teaches that "the ministry of the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist are closely intertwined."

According to the German Dominican, "the aim of the homily must always be to strengthen the faithful and to enable them to publicly proclaim the mighty works of God in their own context of life." Thus, the speaker



called on the preachers to take into account the cultural, social, economic and political context of their students.

"If the preaching does not include enough of this requirement, they contribute to the formation of creep duality: the piety in the church on one side, and the world of life and work with its own requirements" - explained Fr Griessbach.

During the official matriculation 12 first year students - 10 Dominican brothers and two Benedictine brothers of Tyniec abbey – received their transcripts. For the 2013/2014 academic year, there are 49 students, among whom are, 45 Dominicans and 4 Benedictines.

The origin of the Dominican University dates back to the fifteenth century. Currently, the College has "ecclesiastical" status and it is affiliated to the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków. Its faculty consists of the Polish Dominicans and those from neighbouring provinces, as well as clergy and lay experts in the fields of philosophy and theology.

The course of study lasts for six years and ends with the final exam and the award of the Master's Degree in Theology.

Christ Before Rules

Pope Francis raised some eyebrows in his recent interview published in America magazine when he expressed concern that many see the Church's teaching and proclamation primarily in terms of moral prohibitions. The mainstream media suggested that the Holy Father might finally be changing what it regards as antiquated and heartless rules. Some conservative Catholics, on the other hand, worry that the pope is not proclaiming the "hard truths" often enough, as indeed he mentions in the interview. In examining whether these two reactions flow from a true understanding of what Pope Francis is saying, it's helpful to turn to one of the most important contemporary treatments of morality: *After Virtue*, by Alasdair MacIntyre.

MacIntyre explains that calm and objective moral discourse is impossible in this day and age because of the effect of emotivism on our culture. Emotivism is a system of philosophical ethics that developed in early twentieth-century England. It promoted a subjective basis for ethics by positing the idea that moral utterances are expressions of one's preferences rather than anything objective. The culture, then, chafes at rules because they become a burden and an unnecessary hampering of one's freedom, an imposition of someone else's preferences over its own.

For this reason, the point that Pope Francis is making—that Jesus Christ is at the heart of the Gospel—is all the more important to keep in mind. If someone is going to interpret every "Do this" or "Don't do that" that you throw at them as merely your personal preference, then you're likely wasting your breath in your attempt to set them on the "straight and narrow." In an emotivist culture that has largely forgotten its Christian foundations, starting with moral prohibitions is not only ineffective in spreading the Gospel, it's positively damaging. Pope Francis reminds us that "the proposal of the Gospel must be more simple, profound, radiant. It is from this proposition that the moral consequences then flow."

John Senior, a Catholic professor from the University of Kansas known for the conversions that he and two colleagues inspired in the course of their teaching careers, once said: "If you want to be good, be happy." Friendship with God is the greatest source of happiness there is. If we find our true happiness in God, we will be moved to do what is good out of love for Him. We will want to hold on to "the fruit of the Spirit," which St. Paul says "is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Gal 5:22–23).

It is this right ordering of the proclamation of the Gospel that Pope Francis was emphasizing in his interview. He is not afraid to teach what others find unpleasant, but he wants to remind us that "the most important thing is the first proclamation: Jesus Christ has saved you." — Bro. Joachim Kenney, O.P.



Dominican Friar Opens Session of the U.S. House of Representatives with Prayer

With a compromise to end the shutdown on the horizon, Fr. Andrew Hofer, O.P., Master of Students and professor of theology at the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception, began the October 15, 2013 session of the 113th Congress with an opening prayer before the U.S. House of Representatives. View Fr. Andrew offering his prayer at the Speaker's podium here, or read the text below:

"All-powerful and merciful God, we ask you to pour forth your Spirit of blessings upon the world, which you have freely made, this nation, which trusts in you, and upon all here on Capitol Hill, who turn to you.

We have been wrong, and we have sinned. Give us all a share of your wisdom and your mercy. Enlighten us so that we can turn from our error and live by the power of your truth. Strengthened by you, may we stand united in necessary matters, acknowledge liberty in doubtful matters, and be charitable in all matters.

We ask this of you, the source of all unity, liberty, and charity, to whom be glory and honor now and forever. Amen."

Irish Marian Pilgrimage & Immaculate Heart Consecration

The national Dominican pilgrimage to Knock Marian shrine

The annual national Dominican pilgrimage to the Marian shrine at Knock, County Mayo, took place on Sunday 13th October.

This year's pilgrimage also included the consecration of the work of the Irish Dominican province to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as the world was similarly consecrated in Rome by his holiness Pope Francis.

The weather was pleasantly fine to permit the outdoor rosary procession from the new basilica (building completed in 1976) to the site of the 1879 apparitions at the gable end of Knock parish church.

The prior provincial, Fr Gregory Carroll OP, was principal celebrant of Mass during the pilgrimage ceremonies and carried out the consecration ceremony.

Fr Laurence Collins OP, former prior provincial (1992-2000), was homilist.

A large number of Dominican friars also took part in the celebrations, including those in initial formation, accompanying groups of the faithful who attend the Dominican churches in throughout the country.

Source: Dominican Vocations @ <http://dominicanfriars.ie>

The Calendar of the Master of the Order for November 2013

5-14: Canonical Visitation to the Vice Province of West Africa

18-29: Plenary Meetings at Santa Sabina

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