

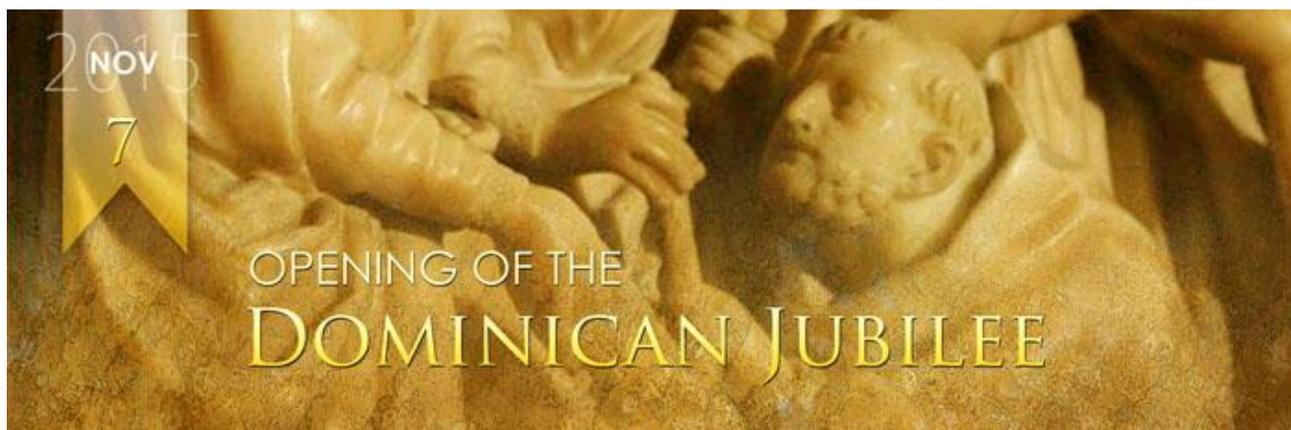


ORDER OF PREACHERS



IUBILÆUM 800 1216- 2016
ORDO PRÆDICATORUM

OPENING OF THE JUBILEE OF THE ORDER



EIGHT HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDER
“Sent to preach the gospel”

If our Jubilee invites us to return to the origins of the Order, paradoxically it is so that we will remember how St. Dominic sent out his first friars from their house, their family, and their nation so as to discover the joy and freedom of itinerancy.

ACP Trogir, 40

Prot. 50/15/680 Jubilee_2016

Dear brothers and sisters,

It is with great joy that I write this letter to announce the opening and the program of the Jubilee of the eight-hundred years of the confirmation of the Order of Preachers that we will be celebrating from the 7th of November 2015 until the 21st of January 2017 (cf. ACP Trogir 58, 3). This celebration of 800 years of the confirmation of our Order will coincide with that of the extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy announced by Pope Francis.

Preachers of Mercy

The happy coincidence of these two Jubilees so dear to our history, our life and Dominican mission, to us this means a special call to renew our ministry of the Word, during the celebration of our eight-hundredth



anniversary, around the specific mission of the Church: «announce the mercy of God, which in its own way must penetrate the heart and mind of every person» .

The general chapter of Trogir have chosen as the theme of the Jubilee year of the Order "Sent to preach the Gospel" (ACG Trogir 2013, 50) and invite us to reflect on the following questions: For whom are we sent? To whom are we sent? With whom? What do we bring by being sent? This same chapter has given an answer to this last question: we are sent to preach the good news of the resurrection of Christ. We believe that his Resurrection is the definitive revelation of the Father's love for Jesus and for the world. The resurrection of Christ is the clearest revelation of "the mercy of God for the poor". Preach the resurrection is to preach a new path of friendship with God. It is this grace that made Saint Dominic into an exemplary preacher, "the preacher of grace". This happy coincidence therefore allows us to unite our Jubilee year with the Jubilee of the Church -the preachers of the Gospel are the preachers of grace, and the preachers of grace are the preachers of the mercy of God.

In the papal Bull of indiction of the extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis expressed his intention to send missionaries of mercy during lent of the holy year 2016. As brothers and sisters of the Order, we feel particularly challenged, because from the first day of our entry in the Order, and before doing our religious profession, we ask for «the mercy of God and brothers». On his path of evangelical life, Dominic tried continuously to testify of Jesus, of the presence of the mercy of God among us, and it is for this reason that his life of preacher was his path of sanctity: since he decided, by a generous gesture of mercy to sell his books in order not to «study on dead skin when there were men who were dying of hunger», he was convinced that the evangelization of the Word of God must be done through the testimony of the charity of the truth.

The solemn opening of the Jubilee of the Order will be held on November 7TH in each community of the Order. The general curia of Santa Sabina will inaugurate also solemnly the eight-hundredth anniversary of the confirmation of the Order with the celebration of the Eucharist during the feast of All Saints. I invite all the Provinces, Vice-provinces, communities, entities, congregations, fraternities and other Dominican institutions to celebrate this day in their communities, as a sign of fraternal communion in the confirmation of the Order which falls upon us now.

During this Jubilee year of the Order, many international events will be held, including the calendar attached to this letter. Their purpose is to promote the participation of the entire Dominican family in these international meetings as well as those organized locally in each province, entity, congregation and community. I particularly urge the prior provincials to facilitate the participation of brothers to these Jubilee activities. Each event coordinator will inform you about the details regarding the registration and participation in each Jubilee activity.

As "sent to preach the gospel", during the Jubilee year, we will follow the path of the Word thanks to the Lectio Divina "the renewal of our Dominican life begins with the unification of our whole existence through attentive listening to the Word, a life of prayer and contemplation, in silence and study" (Cf. ACG Trogir, 42). It will have four sections: lectio, studio, meditatio et oratio. It will be published daily on the internet site of the Jubilee in the three official languages of the Order.

For more information on the activities and the dates of celebration of the Jubilee of the confirmation of the Order, I invite you to visit our web site : <http://www.op.org/es/jubilee> (<http://www.op.org/en/jubilee> - <http://www.op.org/fr/jubilee>).

Our Holy Father Dominic wanted to guide the Order under the patronage of Mary, Mother of Mercy; that is the reason for which, until recently, we celebrated the anniversary of the confirmation of the Order on the 22nd of December at the same time as the feast of the Patronage of Mary throughout the Order. That Mary, Mother of Preachers intercedes for his Order so that God the Father of Mercy grants the sons and daughters of Dominic the grace of the Spirit, so they can announce, through their lives and their words in the world of today and tomorrow, the coming of mercy.



Fraternally in our Father St. Dominic,
fr. Bruno Cadoré, O.P.
Master of the Order
Rome, the 21th of September 2015

• **“Repositioning our Apostolates to Meet the Goal of the Province”**

In accordance with the Statutes of the Province of St Joseph the Worker, Nigeria and Ghana, the Provincial, Bro. Charles Ukwe, convoked the Provincial Assembly for 2015 with the theme, “Repositioning our Apostolates to Meet the Goal of the Province”.

The Assembly was held from the 29th of September to the 2nd of October, 2015 at the Formation House in Ibadan with 136 brothers in attendance. In his welcome address, the Provincial invited the brothers to be free and open in their sharing especially as it pertains to the apostolates in the Province.

The keynote address was delivered by Bro. Quirico Pedregosa, the Rector of the Seminary of the University of St. Thomas, Philippines. In his address, which was titled, “A Missionary Option to the Peripheries”, he reminded brothers that we are called to hold on to a creative force that will enable us to drive our charism to meet the needs of the Province. This creative force which he termed “missionary impulse of preaching” must be targeted at those at the peripheries. These are places, life-realities or life-situations, groups of people, or practices and systems, far from, or without yet, or needing the influence of the power of the gospel.

The facilitator, Fr Bonaventure Ugwu, CSSp., keyed brothers into the discussions proper. The different categories of apostolates were examined sequentially beginning with DI/DU and schools. Other apostolates include Parishes, Internet and the Media; Wellness for Humanity Ministry; Centre for Human Resources Development, (Moniya Farms), St Jude Apostolate, Dominican Arts, the Abuja and Foreign Missions. The brothers in these apostolates were on ground to share their experiences, successes, challenges, and prospects. Among others, it was reiterated that according to our Dominican tradition, our apostolate flows from our community life and our community life should have its mark in our various apostolates.

In his closing remarks, the Provincial thanked the brothers who came from far and near for their sincere and open fraternal sharing. He also commended the brothers we are doing greatly in their various apostolates and challenged them to strive to do better. He emphasized that the community should not be sacrificed on the altar of apostolate and the apostolate must not be neglected due to the comfort of community.

Other highlights of the Assembly include: the laying of the tombstone for late Bro. Julius Nwaibe who died a year ago and updates on the Jubilee by the Promoter of the Jubilee, Bro. Augustine Agwulonu.

After all the proceedings, there was a gala night which helped the brothers relish their fraternal experience of the formation house and helped them shake-off the stress of their apostolates.
Clement Uzoanya, OP

• **A Chain of Preachers of Hope**

The European Lay Dominicans celebrate the Jubilee of the 800th Anniversary of the Order with a Chain of Preachers of Hope.

During the Jubilee Year of our Order and on the way to the next ECLDF Assembly (3–7 October 2017) in Fatima, Portugal, we have organized a kind of Lay Dominican Chain of Preachers of Hope in Europe.

Thinking about our mission as Lay Dominicans, we wondered how we can be Preachers of Hope in our world today with its myriad of problems at different levels:

- We talk about the political and economy problems in Europe and in its neighboring countries: violence, oppression, religious fanaticism, migration etc. Here the connection with the Dominican involvement with Justice and Peace can be strong.



- We also talked about social problems which arise from living together with ‘strangers’, people with different cultures, religions and habits. But we are also confronted with crime, incarcerations, increasing poverty and loneliness. And we experience in our lives and neighborhood many family problems; divorces, unemployment, huge debts etc.
- There are great worries about the future of the Church, how to change the often bad image of the Church and find new ways to reach young people, to raise our children in the faith.

How can we tell the story of our Lord in these days and find signs of grace in the world today?

How can we be Preachers of Hope amidst these problems?

All Lay Dominicans in Europe are invited to share in their fraternities about these issues and to collect some of the personal stories about their experiences of being Preachers of Hope in their own environment. Or find pictures, showing their activities as Preachers of Hope, with a small explanation and/or prayer.

The Chain: Each Province is invited to share their stories and/or pictures with another Province, if possible during a meeting. That means a Province will have to invite its neighboring Province, etc. For the Chain there is a route with a timetable.

If every Province sends their stories and pictures, we can create a real Chain of Preachers of Hope throughout Europe until the next Assembly in October 2017 in Fatima.

• **A Press Day for the Jubilee at Santa Sabina**

In a couple of days, the Order will commence the celebration of her Jubilee Year to mark her 800th anniversary. This is going to be a yearlong celebration filled with great events both at local and international levels. To ensure that the world is kept abreast of this wonderful celebration, the General Curia invited the International Press to Santa Sabina for an introductory conference.

On Wednesday, 21 October 2015, they all came from far and wide. There were about 50 participants representing different local and international media organizations from different parts of the world, both electronic and print media. They were welcomed with a premier of the official trailer of the Jubilee celebrations after which the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadore gave a presentation. In his presentation, fr Bruno introduced the Order to the journalists, its identity and mission and its celebration of the Jubilee.

After the presentation, the journalists were given a guided tour of the historic and ancient Basilica and Convent of Santa Sabina. The tours were organized in different languages to soothe the language preferences of the journalists. The journalists were later treated to a cocktail in the company of the friars living in the convent of Santa Sabina. There were also some friars from the Angelicum. Throughout the gathering, the journalist were able to interact with the fr Bruno and all the other friars one on one, with many friars granting interviews to many of the journalists.

At the end, the journalists were enriched as they had a wonderful time as one of them, Helen Grady of BBC Radio twitted, “Thanks to @Dominican_Order for a wonderful evening at the magical #santasabina - one of my favourite places in Rome.”

The evening was organized by the Communication team of the Order led by fr Eric Salobir (General Promoter for Communications) in conjunction with the General Promoter for the Jubilee, fr Franklin Buitrago Rojas. It is hoped that this will be an eye opener to the world to see the Order in a new light as we celebrate our Jubilee.

The first event of the Jubilee will be the Opening Mass which will take place on the 7th of November at the Basilica of Santa Sabina. The communication team is organizing other projects to help in promoting the Jubilee. You are invited to join us in promoting the Jubilee of the Order.



• **Celebrate and Share the Jubilee of the Order**

The Order of Preachers is going to celebrate its 800th birthday very soon!

For this occasion, it wishes to mobilize as many people as possible on social networks and you are needed to get involved.

First announcement: we are launching the official English account of the Order on Twitter: @Dominican_Order. Please follow us on Twitter and share the name of this account with everyone.

Since joy is contagious, we invite you to complete the registration form below and to share it as widely as possible between now and the 7th November. The registration form will allow us all to share our joy for the Jubilee of the Order.

We have just a few days left and we are hoping that many people will be able to sign up and experience on social networks our joy for the Jubilee. Please sign-up as a sharer of Jubilee 800 news, events and other content and also share the registration page as widely as possible!

<https://docs.google.com/a/curia.op.org/forms/d/15xpbZtfDzqbfwQ87LsQk0NKmI2y2QDcJ8z176KOwnTs/vjwform>

• **Asia Pacific Dominican Leadership Retreat and Conference**

In order to prepare spiritually for the Jubilee Celebration, the Brothers and Sisters in the Asia Pacific Region will have a Dominican Family Retreat from October 12-14, 2015, at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines. Brother Timothy Radcliffe OP, former Master of the Order will be the main speaker.

The Leaders of the Region will hold a Conference on October 15-16, 2015 at the same University.

The Dominican Family Leaders' Conference is an occasion for the superiors of the Asia Pacific Region to meet in plenary assembly and, separately, as branches of the Family. Various concerns affecting the members of the Region are ordinarily discussed in the conference. This year's Leaders Conference, which will be held on the advent of the Jubilee of the Order, is an occasion for all the leaders to share with one another the various ways the different branches will celebrate the 8th Centenary of the Order. Brothers and sisters from the General Curia of the Order will grace the conference.

There are a number of Australian representatives, including Sr Judith Lawson OP Prioress of Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands, and Sr Philomena Barivudu OP, Vicarress of the Holy Rosary Vicariate, Solomon Islands.

You can follow both the retreat and the conference on: <http://www.opfamilyretreatasiapacific.ust.edu.ph/>
From OPFAM

• **The Story Behind the Ann Arbor Dominican Sisters' Appearance on Oprah**

The Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist will appear this weekend on the OWN Network

It was the last year of the Oprah show in Chicago and production staff were discussing what stories they hadn't covered in their 25 year history. One woman spoke up. An "authentic" women's religious community, she said. Oprah was hesitant. "Do you really think a community like that would be willing to be on my program?" she asked. She gave her staff permission to make some calls. All of the communities they contacted said "no," except for one: the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist.

Founded in 1997, the Ann Arbor, Michigan-based Dominican sisters have always been a community interested in engaging with the culture. The Prioress General, Mother Assumpta Long, and a council of the sisters took the request to prayer and asked for advice.

"Sr. John Dominic is a friend of Amy Grant [the singer] who had been on Oprah's program, so she called Amy to ask for her thoughts," recalls Sister Joseph Andrew, one of four foundresses of the community. "Amy was very encouraging so Mother phoned back, said 'yes' and asked when they would be coming to



film, and they responded, “this Sunday evening, and we’ll be gone by Monday late afternoon.” And it all happened in just that manner!”

The Dominican Sisters of Mary appeared twice on the Oprah show in 2010 — on February 2 and again on November 23 for a follow up, after which the television crew followed them back to Ann Arbor to film a profession of vows and the celebration that followed. Both episodes featured a variety of professed and novitiate sisters and on set in the studio were Sister Mary Judith, Sister Maria, Sister Maria Catherine and the four foundresses: Mother Assumpta, Sister Joseph Andrew, Sister John Dominic and Sister Mary Samuel.

Five years later and Oprah isn’t finished with them yet. This October 18, the Sisters will be part of a “where are they now?” show on Oprah’s OWN Network.

“After the producers explained why they wanted to do this a third time, we agreed, ” says Sister Joseph Andrew. “The staff apparently said, ‘Get the Sisters back on!!’ Oprah, herself, told us four years ago that we ended up being the third most popular program that year. I think even she was surprised, but I also think she was so open to God’s grace.”

Sister Maria Catherine, who was interviewed on set in Chicago, says that when the Oprah crew first showed up at their motherhouse, “it was clear they had no idea what to do with us.” But when they came the second time, the crew was much more at home with the Sisters’ routine. “They had settled into thinking of us as brides — in fact, it was refreshing to see how they grasped our prayer life and consecration. It was easier to make everything about Jesus, because it was less foreign to them.”

The most recent visit was shorter. The crew followed up with some of the sisters they interviewed before and captured some of the community members’ hidden talents like singing, baton twirling, juggling oranges, and decorating (wedding) cakes.

The producers also asked the sisters about what has changed since they last appeared on the show, and there was no shortage of things to share: Their community has continued to grow and expand. With over 120 sisters now (double their size 10 years ago), their motherhouse is over capacity so they’re temporarily using a Catholic Center in Huntington, Indiana, for extra housing, and they’re building a new priory in the Diocese of Austin, Texas. A teaching order, the community now serves in seven states, including seven dioceses and three archdioceses. They’ve opened new missions in San Francisco, Chicago, Peoria, and St. Clair Shores, and have their first international mission in Rome. Their summer missions have grown and they’ve added another TV initiative with EWTN, as well as launched a virtue education program, which is being used in Catholic schools around the country as well as homeschooling communities.

This list might not surprise a Catholic who knows the impressive work of women religious and the explosive growth of new religious orders in recent years, but those efforts don’t always get fair play in the media. Were the Dominican Sisters of Mary ever concerned about how they would be portrayed on the Oprah show?

“Prudence would always direct caution in such a situation, but we have to honestly say that Oprah and her people were sincere, professional, respectful, full of awe and genuine interest,” says Sister Joseph Andrew. “We became great friends through it all!”

Sister Maria Catherine echoed the need to discern such invitations, but says they were eager to share the joy of religious consecration with the world. “As Mother Assumpta said in the second episode, ‘Oprah gave us a chance to tell our story.’ ”

The Sisters say many fruits have come from their decision.

“The show allowed even more people to approach us...” says Sister Maria (a different sister than Sr. Maria Catherine quoted above). “Christians and non-Christians who may not have felt comfortable before can see us as a friend because they trust Oprah. It’s a great bridge to building a relationship with God’s people, who would otherwise not have entertained talking with us.”



Sister Joseph Andrew believes the shows portrayed religious life as an authentic, life-giving choice, something ancient, but also new, as depicted in the enthusiasm and joy of young women who are “head-over-heels in love” with Jesus Christ and His people.

“In addition to all the visits to our web site, Oprah sent us hundreds of emails that she received....and yes, we were busy for a long while trying to process the glowing remarks of so many wonderful people!!” says Sister Joseph Andrew. “We were walking on ‘new waters’ for us — but with Christ calling us to come to Him all the while.”

Not only did the Sisters receive instant publicity and awareness by appearing on Oprah, many young women have found the community because of it and have made discernment retreats — some have even joined them.

“We owe Oprah a lot — and she, too, was moved by the intelligent intensity of the young sisters,” recalls Sister Joseph Andrew. “We believe the Holy Spirit was using her and her efforts to proclaim truth with charity across the airwaves to a very hungry world.”

And what exactly did the Sisters think of the queen of daytime talk?

Sister Maria says what struck her the most was Oprah’s graciousness and attentiveness. “She understands the dignity of [people] in a way that is really quite extraordinary, and she knows that one of the most important things you can do is be present to someone. She knows that this is one of the most beautiful ways to reverence that person, and to love them.”

Sister Maria recalls going to the Harpo studios for the second time and running into Oprah in the hallway outside of the green room. “She put out her arms and said, ‘My Sisters!’ Then she proceeded to give us all hugs. I hope that I am always that warm and welcoming to my guests.”

Sister Joseph Andrew is equally effusive in her praise about Oprah.

“On our visits with Oprah we met a very professional, very human, a warm, enthusiastic, jovial person with a penetrating mind that always wanted to know more and delve into the reasons ‘why’ of our life. She was delightful in every way and we all came away feeling we had gained a new friend. It’s easy to understand her success — she genuinely is interested in everyone, tells the truth as she sees it, and is a warm and very accepting person, as long as you can convince her that what you believe and how you live your life makes sense....at least to you!”

As for what the Sisters hope will be the fruit this third time around, Sister Maria expects that God will use it as He chooses:

“If it touches only one soul, it will be enough.”

(Photos courtesy of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist)

Zoe Romanowsky is Lifestyle Editor and Video Curator at Aleteia

• **Dominican Jubilee Inserts**

The Province of St. Albert the Great, USA, has produced 52 small articles commemorating the 800th anniversary of the Order. These articles are suitable for copying-and-pasting into Sunday bulletins but can be used also for other purposes, too. Most of the articles are of general interest but a handful pertain to specific topics of concern to the Province of St. Albert the Great.

These articles are free for the use of any entity in the Dominican Family.

Here is the link: <https://drive.google.com/a/curia.op.org/folderview?id=0Bw4iLLErEdrqNVRHR...>

fr. Tom McDermott, OP

Coordinator of the project



• **New Perspectives on Early Lay Dominicans - Fr. Augustine Thompson, OP**

Our Changing Understanding of the Black Penitents and Dominican Third Order in the Middle Ages

Discovery of previously unknown documents and better understanding of the religious culture of the laity in the Italy of St. Dominic and St. Francis have radically changed the accepted narrative for the origins and development of the "Penitents of St. Dominic," perhaps best known as the "Dominican Third Order of Penance," now the "Dominican Laity." These developments have very much changed the context of the vocations of early lay collaborators of the Order, in particular St. Zdislava of Lemberk and St. Catherine of Siena. The results of these developments, on which Fr. Thompson will speak, are surprising, challenging, and, in many ways, empowering for modern Lay Dominicans.

Fr. Augustine Thompson, OP, is professor of history at DSPT and has written extensively on the religious life of lay people in Medieval Italy. He is a member of the Core Doctoral Faculty of the GTU, American Catholic Historical Society, American Historical Association, American Society of Church History, The Medieval Academy of America, and Iuris Canonici Medii Aevi Consociatio (International Society of Medieval Canon Law).

This event is free and open to all, but RSVPs are required. Watch live via Livestream.

• **Jesus and Pope Francis: Receiving the Light of Christ**

The Lord said: "Woe to you Pharisees! You pay tithes of mint and of rue and of every garden herb, but you pay no attention to judgment and to love for God. These you should have done, without overlooking the others. Woe to you Pharisees! You love the seat of honor in synagogues and greetings in marketplaces. Woe to you! You are like unseen graves over which people unknowingly walk."

Then one of the scholars of the law said to him in reply, "Teacher, by saying this you are insulting us too." And he said, "Woe also to you scholars of the law! You impose on people burdens hard to carry, but you yourselves do not lift one finger to touch them" (Lk. 11:42-46).

Jesus is clearly saying that in following religious laws and rules – which in itself is a good thing – no matter how holy they might be, if they blind us from seeing the face of God in the face of our neighbor, then something is radically wrong. If obeying a law blinds us from loving our neighbor, then we need to reconsider the law. Love of God and love of neighbor are the undercurrent of all of God's law. There is no greater law than love.

Today's gospel just happens to come in the midst of the Synod on the Family, convoked by Pope Francis in Rome. Jesus does not mince his words when he faces the well-versed religious scholars who were heaping burdens upon simple people -- without offering any assistance at all. Pope Francis has stated several times that he hopes that the Synod will help to unbind the heavy loads that people and couples and families are forced to carry in the midst of modern difficulties in the arena of marriage and family life. Says Pope Francis:

In the Synod, the Spirit speaks [to all] who let themselves be guided by the God who always surprises ... the God, who leaves the 99 sheep to look for the one lost sheep ... The Synod will be a space for the action of the Holy Spirit only if we participants vest ourselves with apostolic courage, evangelical humility and trusting prayer ... [refusing] to be intimidated in the face of the temptations of the world ... that tend to extinguish the light of truth ... [driving] people away from God ... [1]

Religious laws, when they lack humility and compassion, are precisely what Jesus is condemning. The Pharisees had become quite skillful in making laws in their own image and likeness. Jesus makes it very clear that their laws are as useful as graves that people walk over mindlessly.

Pope Francis is inviting the Church to not extinguish the fragile light of Christ with the fire extinguisher of self-righteousness. On the day of our baptism we were handed a small, fragile candle, lighted from the Paschal candle. "Receive the light of Christ," we were told. What a powerful symbol! That baptismal candle that we received – so tiny, fragile and limited – hardly seems like a worthy symbol of Christ, the eternal light



of God. What a mystery! A small, fragile candle, that will eventually burn itself out, is given to us as icon of Christ.

This seems to be the paradox that Pope Francis is inviting us to embrace. He asks us to, “vest ourselves with ... evangelical humility and trusting prayer ... [so that we not] extinguish the light of truth ...”

Apparently, many of the Pharisees failed the test in Jesus' day. Now it's our turn. We have all been given that candle, and each day we are sent out into the world, to be a fragile and beautiful icon of the eternal light of Christ.

fr. Brian J. Pierce, OP, Asunción, Paraguay, Oct 14, 2015.

[1] Pope Francis' address to the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the Family on the morning of their first full day (Vatican Radio).

• **Dominican Jubilee Scholarship**

Dominican Jubilee Scholarship (for a second undergraduate degree in Theology and Religion, Philosophy and Theology, or Theology and Oriental Studies)

Blackfriars Hall will award a Dominican Jubilee Scholarship for entry in 2016/2017, should there be a suitable candidate. If there is no suitable candidate, the Hall reserves the right not to award the scholarship.

The Scholarship is to the value of £9,000 a year for two years, or £6,000 a year for three years, and will be awarded on academic merit. Retaining the scholarship after the first year is conditional on the recipient having received good academic reports.

The recipient of the scholarship must:

- (i) have been accepted by Blackfriars to study for an undergraduate degree in Theology and Religion, Philosophy and Theology, or Theology and Oriental Studies;
- (ii) already hold a good first undergraduate degree at the time of entry;
- (iii) not be in receipt of significant levels of funding from other sources, such as employers, charities or other funding bodies;
- (iv) give an account in his/her application of how his/her studies will be of benefit to the Church and wider society, in the spirit of the Dominican Order.

Those wishing to apply for the Dominican Jubilee Scholarship should apply in the normal way to study at Blackfriars. For details of the University's admissions process, see www.admissions.ox.ac.uk. In addition, applicants should obtain a Dominican Jubilee Scholarship form by emailing admin@bfriars.ox.ac.uk, and should return the completed form by 15 October 2015.

The scholarship will be offered to the successful candidate together with the offer to study at Blackfriars.

• **OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY & THE DOMINICAN CONNECTION**

Many of us have heard or read that St. Dominic de Guzman received the Rosary from the Blessed Virgin Mary when she appeared to him. St. Louis-Marie de Montfort (1673-1716; a Dominican by virtue of his being a member of the Priestly Fraternities of the Order of Preachers) gives us what is perhaps the earliest written source of this story. In his book, *Secret of the Rosary*, Louis-Marie de Montfort himself cited Alan de la Roche, OP (1428-1475) who had earlier written a work called 'De Dignitatem Psalterii'. Before Alan de la Roche, the champion of all those who promoted the Rosary, we have no documentation of any link between Dominic and the Rosary. Louis-Marie de Montfort relied a lot on what Alan de la Roche did before him. Some Papal Encyclicals and several 'respectable' documented sources that came later appear to depend on Alan when they say that Dominic received the Rosary from Our Lady. What is referred to as the Rosary is the devotion and not merely the physical material -- the chaplets that we are familiar with and used to pray it.



No one seemed to have really questioned the story that Dominic received the Rosary from the Virgin Mary until the popular use of Historical Criticism in 19th century scholarship. The problem some historians had with the story of Dominic and the Rosary as held for centuries is that it is not backed by any historical evidence.

The question had been, did Dominic indeed receive the Rosary from the Virgin Mary? If he did, how come we have no records of it until about 200 years later? It may be true that Dominic received the rosary from Our Lady but none of the available documents written in the times of St. Dominic mentions this. Some historians have suggested that perhaps the sources available to Blessed Alan de la Roche might have been lost. I tend to accept this latter view. Alan did not publish any work but there are many writings attributed to him, some of which Louis-Marie de Montfort cited. The silence before Alan strikes us even more when we notice from written sources that the process of the canonization of St. Dominic de Guzman was characterized by many stories eagerly told by eyewitnesses or persons who heard directly from eyewitnesses of events in the life of St. Dominic. None of the known sources say anything about the Rosary. The closest thing we could hold on to in terms of documented history are stories told by Dominican friars of the 13th century that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Dominic. But these stories of how Our Lady appeared to St. Dominic do not mention the Rosary at all. Consequently, historians of today tend to consider the story that St. Dominic received the Rosary from Our Lady as unreliable. Could Alan de la Roche make up the stories? He obviously did not manufacture the Rosary devotion. While his stories are difficult to verify, he clearly trusted his sources and sounded very convinced and sincere.

Whatever view we hold about Dominic and the Rosary, no one can tell the story of the Rosary without mentioning Dominicans. Today, the more widely held story is that the Rosary developed gradually from the use of beads by illiterate lay people and monks who could not pray the Psalms and used it as a substitute for the 150 Psalms. We also know that Jane of Aza, the mother of St. Dominic loved the monks of Prémontré and must have taken the young Dominic there.

Of particular interest is the fact that Dominicans had always emphasized the salvific significance of the Incarnation of the Son of God as a narrative to combat any prevailing negative teachings about the flesh. The coming of God in the flesh and his life inspire us to imitate him. This incarnation narrative exposed the error in the Albigensian heresy and provided the central theme of the Holy Rosary making it rooted in sound Christian teaching as promoted by Dominicans. The Rosary was arranged into 15 mysteries. Roses are presented to the Blessed Virgin Mary while simultaneously pondering on the life of Christ (mysteries). In 2003, Pope John Paul II added the Luminous Mysteries to the existing Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious.

Besides the spread of Rosary by Dominicans in the 15th century and the establishment of the Confraternity of Most Holy Rosary, it was a Dominican Pope (Pius V) who instituted the feast of the Holy Rosary in 1574. Today most Catholics readily identify with the Rosary. In many parts of the world, a serious catholic is expected to pray a part of the Rosary daily. The Constitutions of the Order of Preachers call the Rosary 'our heritage'.

In 1917, Our Lady appeared to three children at Fatima, Portugal and referred to herself as the Lady of the Rosary. We may not get a heavenly confirmation that St. Dominic received the devotion that the Rosary is from Our Lady, but from and despite scanty historical data, there is a unique connection between St. Dominic de Guzman and Our Lady of the Holy Rosary.

Oluyemi Taiwo, OP

• **FOREVER WITH GOD AND ABOUT GOD**

Three brothers from the Provincial Vicariate of Equatorial Africa (VEA): Jean Paul Tagheu (Cameroon), Herman Loumbé (Congo-Brazzaville) and Juste Boylamba (Central African Republic), made solemn Profession in the Order of Preachers. The profession of Brothers Jean Paul and Herman took place on September 11, 2015 at Saint Joseph Priory, Douala (Cameroon), and for Brother Juste, on September 13, 2015 at the University Chaplaincy of Brazzaville (Republic of Congo). Brother Jean Paul Tagheu speaks of these two celebrations presided over by Brother Michel Lachenaud, O.P., Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of France.



Hence, we seize this opportunity to express our immense joy and gratitude to the merciful and mighty God, who granted us such a grace. We have asked for God's mercy and yours, and you have given it to us in a solemn and total manner. Woe to us, therefore, if in our turn, after receiving this mercy we do not transmit it to the whole world (cf. 1 Cor 9: 16). The challenge before us is therefore great. From now on and forever, we are missionaries of God's Mercy. For to speak with God and about God is nothing else than to speak of His infinite Mercy.

This is rightly why, during his homily, the Prior Provincial, Brother Michel Lachenaud, op., exhorted us to be everywhere witnesses of love in our mission as preachers. He exhorted us to a total renunciation of ourselves, so that our following of Christ might be fecund and fruitful for the salvation of sinners of whom we are the firsts. "Faith in the Gospel and its proclamation to humankind" Brother Lachenaud says, "expose us to a great risk: that of losing ourselves for the sake of Christ and the salvation of souls".

These words strengthened us in our total commitment, as sons and brothers of Saint Dominic in the Order of Preachers; as disciples and friends of Christ, the Saviour of the world. And knowing that you are with us in this Vineyard and Harvest of Christ, we count once more on God's Mercy and yours. We rely on your prayers, in so far as to say thank you for God's grace is also to ask for God's grace without which we can do nothing (cf. Jn 15: 5) and are nothing. Continue to pray for us and with us; let us pray together for the conversion of humankind, for justice and peace in the world.

Thanking God whom we do not see visibly, we would like to thank all of you, brothers and sisters, for your companionship of love and mercy. Our thanks is particularly directed to our superiors and formators throughout these years; to our natural families respectively, who were the first to show us the way to the Church and towards consecration. Saint Augustine says, "good shepherds are made from good sheep". (Sermon on Shepherds 46, 29-30). In other words, good Dominicans, which we want to be are made from good brothers and sisters, good lay faithful, friends and relatives like you.

fr. Tagheu Jean Paul, O.P

Official News

● **Plenary Indulgence for the Dominican Jubilee**

We are pleased to inform you that His Holiness Pope Francis has granted the possibility of receiving the plenary indulgence to all the faithful participating in the Jubilee celebrations that will take place both internationally and in each province and to all those who will participate in a pilgrimage to the churches and chapels of the Dominican family. The terms and conditions to receive the indulgence are described in the document sent by the Apostolic Penitentiary.

The Holy Father also encourages all the priests of the Order to make themselves available to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance in all Jubilee places and frequently administer the Holy Communion to the infirm.

We invite the entire Dominican family to publicize and to receive the plenary indulgence which strengthens and encourages the common commitment of the renewal of the entire Order in this Jubilee Year.

● **WITNESSES TO COMPASSION SERIES: A Silent Service: Brother José Aguilar Barradas**

Witnessing to Compassion: A Series on the Vocation of Cooperator Brothers in the Order.

Brother José Aguilar Barradas

The vocation of the Cooperator brothers in the Order remains a vital part of our preaching mission. In a bid to promote this Vocation, we will be featuring the works of different Cooperator brothers from different parts of the world. We invite you to follow this series on the website of the Order (www.op.org) and on IDI.

This month, we are featuring:

A Silent Service: Brother José Aguilar Barradas



Brother Jose is the third of 10 children of a very Christian peasant family. He was born on the 19th of March 1918 at Alto Lucero, in the State of Veracruz in Mexico. He spent his childhood working in the fields picking coffee, beans and sugar cane He was affected by the Mexican revolution of 1910 due to religious persecution, when he was only eight years old. Once completed, in his youth he met a young enthusiastic called Marcialito who encouraged him to be a part of the Catholic Action, where he served for a long time and even became the President.

Advised by Marcialito, in 1964, he asked to enter the Order of Preachers as Cooperator Brother. He did his novitiate in the Apostolic School of Saint Dominic in Tultenango in the State of Mexico. After his profession, he served the province of Santiago in Mexico in different houses, teaching catechism to children and working in the sacristy. One of his main tasks, over the past 25 years, was to accompany by his work and his prayer the formators and the brothers in formation to the house of theological studies. Many events of the convent were beautified through the poetry he was writing when he barely knew how to write. They demonstrated the depth of his experience of consecration to God.

This is a man who has a special love for the Holy Rosary. He spent a lot of time in its creation, distribution and diffusion ... a few years ago, he even proposed to build a chapel to Our Lady of the Rosary. He came to realise it in a beautiful place called Alto Lucero, helped by the donations and charity of the faithful, in favour of his project and who wanted to be associated to it.

Now that he is elderly, he spends a lot of time in his beloved chapel, to recite the mysteries of the holy Rosary, in silence or aloud, accompanied by chant or the music of his harmonica. I have witnessed this as I had the chance to visit him and to keep him company. In this holy place, he receives, he listens and he shares the little he has, to help those who look for him and respond to their needs.

His simplicity, his joy, his frankness are proof that the Dominican religious life is worth living. In talking with people, some ask me: How does fr. José, 97 years old, remain kneeling for several hours before the Holy Sacrament? ... And I think of all the Cooperator Brothers who have in this way spent all their religious life in silence, dedicated to the service of their brothers on the inside and outside of the convent ... without making the slightest noise.

Fr. Martín Olvera Escamilla OP

Calendar of the Master of the Order for November 2015

26 Oct.-3 Nov.: Canonical Visitation to the Province of the Most Holy Name, USA.

4-5: Dominican Laity Congress, Washington DC

7: Opening of the Jubilee at Santa Sabina.

8: Meeting of Board of the Dominican Family at Santa Sabina

11-24: Plenary Meetings of the General Council at Santa Sabina

25-27: Union of Superiors General Meeting in Rome

28-29: Visit to Vienna, Austria

30 Nov-9 Dec: Canonical Visitation to the Vice Province of Pakistan

All articles are available on www.op.org