On December 22, 1216, Pope Honorary III approved the Bull of Confirmation of the Order of Friars Preachers, recognizing universally a project of evangelization that had begun at the initiative of the Spanish Dominic of Guzman. Eight centuries of intense spiritual and human history have since passed since the foundation of the Order.

“During the just concluded celebration of the Jubilee of the 800 Anniversary of the Confirmation of the Order, we were called to draw from the wealth of our foundation so that we can have the audacity to look to the future with determination and enthusiasm”, fr Bruno Cadoré reminds us.

The Convent of Santa Sabina on the Aventine Hill is the first domicile of the Dominicans in Rome and today the General Curia of the Order. Preserved in it are iconic historical arts which portray the roots of the life and mission of the Order, they preserve the figure of St Dominic and his earliest brothers and sisters.

The volume “Convent of Santa Sabina on the Aventine Hill: Her Heritage, Artistic and Architectural History” is the result of the research into the origins of the Convent of Santa Sabina and the Order. It intends to celebrate this important icon by outlining her historical and artistic heritage.

The book was put together through a methodology that compares the archaeological study of the architectural monument, archival documentation and textual and iconographic sources. At the same time it presents for the first time, an interesting heterogeneous heritage of preserved works of art in the complex, full of meaningful materials that are often not well known or even never published.

The book also presents an extraordinary panoramic view of the Dominicans in the historical and social contexts of the various epochs; from the origin of the mendicant Orders to the instances of the Reformation, from the
onset of the Pontifical State to the return of the Preachers to Santa Sabina in a systematic process of the reformation of the Order through memory and history.

In his introduction to the book, fr Bruno shares his thoughts on the connection between the Convent of Santa Sabina and the Order:

Since the very beginning, the history of the Convent of Santa Sabina has been intimately connected to the history of the Order and thus has become the common home of the family of the daughters and sons of St Dominic.

The beauty and diversity of her artistic heritage, which has been enriched by the prayers of the earliest brothers, continues to enrich the prayers, study and work of the brothers and sisters who live in the convent today. Thus, it is a great privilege to live and work in such a convent. In this respect, to visit Sainte Sabine, is to visit the history of the Order, to live today in the walls where those who preceded us and transmitted the Order lived, to discover how essential arts were to them.

Because of their beauty and diversity, and the traces of the history of the Order which they bear, the heritage of the Convent of Santa Sabina constitute more than just a patrimony. They indeed establish this Convent as the “abode” of the Order, that is, both as a place where the history of the Order is preserved and transmitted and as a place from which the Order is sent to the world, today and tomorrow”.

In this sense, taking an inventory of her artistic, architectural and iconographic heritage means becoming more aware of the responsibility of receiving a heritage. This responsibility implies constantly seeking for new ways to transmit what we have received.

This book was put together by a team of experts led by Mauela Gianandrea, Mauela Annibali and Laura Barton. These are Italian researchers and historical experts and curators of the Dominican Museum of Santa Sabina.

The research work was done with the collaboration and support of the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré, fr Francesco M. Ricci, fr Orlando Rueda Acevedo, fr Dominic Izzo, fr Gaspar Roja Sigaya and fr Hilario Provecho and the entire community of Santa Sabina.

The book which is currently published in Italian was presented to the general public on Monday, 15 May 2017 at the Basilica of Santa Sabina, Rome in the presence of state and city officials and the general public. Copies of the book are available at the bookstore of the Convent of Santa Sabina. You can contact Sr Lucy, OP (ufficio.libri@cura.op.org)

Q & A with Sr. Lorelle Elcock, OP, raising money for Dominican sisters in Iraq

It's been nearly three years since ISIS captured the Iraqi city of Mosul, causing many of the residents, including — eventually — the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, to flee. In those three years, the sisters have reimagined many of their ministries to make them work for life in a refugee camp.

Support from the global network for Dominican sisters has helped bring these ministries to fruition. Sr. Lorelle Elcock, prioress of the New York-based Dominican Sisters of Hope, shares what her parish has done to help the Iraqi sisters.

GSR: Last summer, your parish — Church of the Holy Spirit in Cortlandt Manor, New York — raised $14,000 for the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena. How did that happen?

Elcock: I really think that this was the work of the Spirit because it was not at my initiation. Back in November 2015, a gentleman emailed our community. He was introducing himself because he was the co-chair of a new group forming within the parish, trying to make people in the parish aware of the systematic destruction and persecution of Christian communities in the Middle East.
He was trying to identify organizations that were already providing relief services to people in the Middle East. I responded that we'd love to talk to him about this. I was very taken with it because I was very aware of what the Dominicans were doing in providing Dominican-to-Dominican financial assistance and support to the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena.

He didn't know you also went to that parish?
He didn't know I went to that parish.

So what came out of that email?
I met with the committee; I told them about the Dominican sisters in Iraq and how we'd been trying to provide support and encouragement and hope to them. They very much liked the idea [of helping the sisters] because it was not just making a collection for one of the major relief organizations — it was having a more personal contact with what was going on over there.

I told them that at the end of April 2016, I was going to Rome for a meeting of Dominican Sisters International, and I would actually be meeting Sr. Maria Hanna, who was, at the time, the prioress for the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena. I said I would be happy to meet with her and ask questions about how they might be connected.

When I got back, it was right around the time of the parish's 50th jubilee celebration. What made the collection very effective was that the committee really put together a whole educational piece for the parish. Sr. Arlene Flaherty, who had actually been to Iraq to visit the sisters — we invited her to come and do a preaching at all the Masses on the weekend the collection was going to take.

And now there's a new collection being taken?
That committee has continued to provide other types of experiences. They've continued to see how to keep this alive, how to keep the awareness alive. They wanted to know if there was something specific that could be requested — again, to make it a more personal relationship between the parish and the community. They identified that the sisters were going to have first Communion for about 360 children.

It costs about $45 per child to prepare them for first Communion, and the families were not charged anything for the religious education. So the parish used that as the incentive for again giving in a collection. That just happened in the last weekend in April. I know they initially raised about $3,800, but I don't know if anything additional has come in after that initial collection.

It was promoted more in connection with the first Communion that was happening in our own parish. Let's face it, in the U.S., some parents spend hundreds of dollars on Communion garb and parties and so forth. So $45 for a child to have a nice first Communion instruction is not very much.

It didn't get the same kind of intense publicity that the first collection did, but people were still very generous because they're still giving in addition to all the regular collections that they're being asked to contribute to.

You mentioned that the committee wants to keep awareness alive. Is there a sense that the public has forgotten about ISIS and Iraq?

Well, that certainly is a concern that I feel and that I think that this committee feels, as well. There's so much tragedy going on in the world that we keep moving from one crisis to another. And we sometimes forget that these refugees and displaced persons, this is an ongoing reality of their life.

In your opinion, what's next for the Iraqi sisters?
It's hard to say. From what they've expressed in their communications, they feel kind of like they're in a liminal space — just not knowing. And I think they've tried to create as normal a life as possible for themselves and all these displaced Christian families; they've just been very faithful to what the reality is for them right now.
Whether they would ever make that a more permanent home, I have no idea. I don't think anybody does because there's still just so much unresolved in Iraq. And yet they still have young women joining them. They still have people in formation. So I think they still see the value of maintaining religious life there, and they do have women joining them. Even in this state of unknowing, they're still being faithful to who they are. And I'm sure it's not easy. I'm sure the psychological stresses that they must experience along with all the other displaced persons — it's not easy.

But I think it's a time of transition for all religious around the world — of being in a new time and space where so much is changing so rapidly all around us. We just have to take one day at a time to figure out where the Spirit is leading us.

Dawn Araujo-Hawkins is a Global Sisters Report staff writer based in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Dominican Sister of Peace Brings Hope to Trafficked Women**

“Honey, are you hungry?” These words are often heard by a teenage girl on the streets of Columbus, OH. She is dirty and hungry, and despite the fact that she will be with as many as 10 men today, she is alone and unloved. But to Sister Nadine Buchanan, OP, this girl is an angel in disguise — and those simple words open a door to hope and love.

Sr. Nadine began her mission to the victims of human trafficking in Columbus, OH in 2009. It was a way to, as she says, “put flesh” to one of her Congregation’s commitments: to promote justice for the marginalized, especially women and children. Over eight years, her ministry has moved from cooking meals with and for survivors, to the courtroom to help those in recovery, to the streets. Today, she works with women who are still in the grip of a life of sexual slavery.

“I started this part of my work with human trafficking about two years ago, when I offered to help my friend and mentor, April Thacker,” Sr. Nadine says. “April was trafficked for 15 years, and now works to help others survive and leave that life. She was taking food and personal items to women on the street during the holiday season. From the very first time I went out with April, I was taken by the sadness and suffering on their faces — and now, I can’t do enough for these women.”

Sr. Nadine has grown her street ministry from holiday visits to several trips a week to the lower west side of Columbus. Driving slowly past boarded up storefronts and homes she calls out to the women that she meets, “Are you hungry, honey?” Once the conversation has started, Sr. Nadine opens her trunk to offer coats, clothing, blankets and hygiene items, accompanied by a caring smile and a warm hug.

She returns to the Congregation’s Motherhouse with an empty car and a dogged determination to go out again. “My heart is heavy with what my eyes have seen. It keeps me close to God because I need His grace and the prayers of my Sisters and friends to continue this ministry. It’s not easy — this work draws me out of my comfort zone. But these young ladies need to know someone cares and has compassion for them. In the name of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, this ministry brings that to them.”

“These girls have nothing,” Sr. Nadine continues. “No food, no home, no fresh clothes— not one person that they can trust. I just want to sow hope and trust — to be a friendly face that they can count on, and the person that they can always believe.”

Sr. Nadine’s ministry began in a therapeutic justice program in Franklin County, OH. CATCH Court, which stands for Changing Actions To Change Habits, was founded by the Honorable Judge Paul Herbert. CATCH Court is a treatment-oriented, non-adversarial program for re-arrested prostitutes who are victims of human trafficking. Many suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome, depression, and drug addiction. The program helps them to escape the sex trade and heal the emotional scars left behind.
Sr. Nadine is often the first face a woman sees when she enters the CATCH Court program, since she is one of several volunteers who pick up women at Franklin County Jail. She drives the woman to a rehabilitation center or supervised housing; each woman will also attend weekly sessions of CATCH Court, where Sr. Nadine sits in to provide support. During her transport, Sr. Nadine gives each woman clean clothes, a meal, and a bag of personal items to help her start her new life.

“They are so touched by this act of kindness… it’s something they don’t experience very often! I’ve made it my mission to make them feel welcome and comfortable during the time they are with me. They open up and ask me if they can tell me their story – which is very liberating for them,” Sr. Nadine says.

More than 70% of the women who complete the CATCH program do not offend again. One reason for that success is the opportunity for meaningful work after graduating from CATCH. Freedom A la Carte is a Columbus catering firm that provides supportive services and dignified jobs to survivors of human trafficking. Sr. Nadine volunteers at Freedom Ala Carte, where she acts as an extra pair of hands and offers support and love to these women who need it desperately.

Sr. Nadine’s ministry is unique because of its depth – she serves women at every stage of the trafficking cycle, from the streets to survivor. Because of this, she sees the true breadth of the human trafficking crisis in Columbus.

“There are so many homeless and trafficked young ladies out there – I rarely see the same once twice. I can’t help but feel compassion and love for them. They ARE God’s precious ones, and they are precious to me,” Sr. Nadine says. “These young ladies help me find God’s strength, and give me courage to keep going out to help them.”

“These young ladies are very grateful for everything they receive – and I am so grateful to God and to my Congregation for allowing me to work in a Ministry that promotes justice for the marginalized, helps change oppressive systems, and creates a place of welcome and love.”

**Symphony of Peace Prayers 2017 at Peace Center in Lahore**

A group of over 150 dedicated Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs gathered at Peace Center Lahore on 17th of May, 2017 to offer prayers for the world peace and especially for those countries which are confronted with war, terrorism, violence and hatred. We believe that prayers are very powerful expression of our submission to God and that we seek his mercy and blessings for us and the world around us. God hears our prayers when said from the heart and with deep conviction and that God grants us peace, harmony and joy in our hearts, families and countries.

This program called Symphony of Peace Prayers was jointly organized by the Peace Center and URI Pakistan. Although the weather was very hot, over 100 centigrade, these people thronged to offer prayers for world peace. All prayed according to their own religions. Fr Roccus Patras OP read a passage from the Holy Bible, Allama Masood Qasim Qasi recited from the Holy Quran, Pandat Lal Khokhar (Hindu priest) read a passage from the Bagwadgita and Sardar Akash Sing (Sikh) from Guru Garanth Sahib. This ceremony was an inspiration and in solidarity with the Symphony of Peace Prayers which is celebrated at Fuji Sanctuary, which is at the foot of the legendary Fuji Mountain, in Japan. Fr. James Channan OP Director of Peace Center Lahore and National Coordinator of URI Pakistan along with Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, Grand Imam of Badshahi Mosque Lahore have been honored to be in that SOPP twice in Japan.

Fr James welcomed all the guests to the prayer event and presented the history of the SOPP and the collaboration of Peace Center and URI Pakistan. He highly admired the vision and dream of Mrs. Masami Saionji, Chairperson of World Peace Prayer Society and Goi Peace Foundation for presenting this idea of
SOPP to the whole world and how such a marvelous gathering takes place at Fuji Sanctuary where thousands of peace loving people from various religions gather and offer prayers according to their own respective religions. He also mentioned how honored he was to have been invited twice together with Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad to represent the Christianity and Islam in the international celebration of SOPP in Japan. He expressed confidence that certainly our prayers for the world peace will bring forth a lot of positive results in our world which is faced with many challenges and issues right now. He said there are many challenges and hardships to continue the work of peace but it should be our prime responsibility. We must all create avenue to promote peace and interfaith harmony in the world. He also recalled the Day of Peace and Prayers which was initiated by His Holiness Pope John Paul II in 1986 in Assisi, Italy in which representative of all major religions were invited to observe a day of prayer. In the beautifully decorated hall of Peace Center, the representatives of various religions looked like colorful flowers in a bouquet.

The Dominican students sung a song to deliver a message of peace and love to the whole world. Ms. Tasneem Saeed read the message of Mrs. Masami Saionji from Japan which was addressed to Fr James, Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, Ms. Sabina Riafat and all participants. In her message, Mrs. Masami highly admired and paid rich tribute to the efforts of Fr James and Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad.

Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad congratulated Fr. James for organizing such thoughtful event and also expressed joy at the large number of participants. He recounted the long history of their collaboration in interreligious dialogue and peace building and he also recounted their joint participation at the SOPP events at Tokyo and Fuji Sanctuary, Japan. Mr. Sohail Ahmad Raza, an interfaith leader and Coordinator of Minaj-ul-Quran University also commended the event. Believing strongly that God will answer the prayers for peace, he renewed his organizations commitment to interfaith dialogue. All the other religious leaders present expressed optimism in the event and interfaith dialogue in general.

A young leader, Mr. Shahbaz Khan led the reading of the famous prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, “Make me a Channel of Peace” along with 17 URI Coordinators. It was so moving to observe that all Muslims, Hindus, Christians and Sikh said this prayer all together.

Towards the end of the program, the participants were handed flags of different countries and were asked to pray for that particular country. This flag ceremony created an atmosphere of great jubilation and peaceful coexistence.

Fr James Channan OP, Director, Peace Center, Lahore, Pakistan.

The fecundity of the life of a Dominican contemplative nun

After almost 40 years in Cameroon, Sr. Raymunda Witjes, op, passed away very peacefully on Monday 1 May 2017 at the age of 82 years, after a protracted ill-health. Sr. Raymunda was the last of the six Dominican nuns who set out on the 22 December 1965, from the Monastery of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Mariadal in the Netherlands for the foundation of a Dominican monastery in the North-West Anglophone region of Cameroon. Yah Raymunda as her fellow nuns of the Monastery of Saint Dominic in Bambui, Bamenda (Cameroon) used to call her affectionately, was buried in the cemetery of the monastery on Saturday 6 May. Her funeral has shown the fecundity of the preaching, contemplation and prayers of a Dominican nun, within the silence of the cloister of her monastery.

Sr. Therese Claire, the prioress of this monastery, gives us her testimony. For the burial Mass of Sr. Raymunda, says the prioress, “there were about 65 priests and 3 Bishops, to say nothing of religious men and women. As for the crowd of lay people, the monastery has never witnessed such a crowd since her Golden Jubilee celebration on 28 December 2015. Although no member of Sr. Raymunda’s biological family could make it for her funeral, she has indeed acquired the hundredfold of another family in Cameroon.”
This was also the case for the transfer of the mortal remains of Sr. Raymunda from the Akum Mortuary, on Friday 5 May. Sr. Therese Claire testifies: “More came to mortuary than I expected, thus there was a whole convoy of cars as we returned with Yah Raymunda. As we approached the monastery grounds I was moved to see the number of people already there.” Then the prioress gives us the details on the celebration of the funeral of Sr. Raymunda in the monastery.

The coffin was blessed in front of the outside chapel, and then opened for the people to pay their last respects to Sr. Raymunda, says the prioress. She goes on: “At 6pm the first vigil Mass, led by the Immaculate Heart choir of Bambui parish, commenced with 22 priests concelebrating with Fr. Cosmas and a big congregation. The second Mass which was at 9pm, had 6 priests with Fr. A. Fondong, a real son to Sr. Raymunda, as main celebrant. The third Mass at mid-night, had 7 priests with Fr. John Berinyuy as main celebrant. The Mass at 3am was taken by our former chaplain, Fr. Clement Pishangu, with 3 priests assisting, and finally the Mass at 6am had Fr. Donatus Capuchin, as main celebrant assisted by 2 priests.”

For the day of the burial, Saturday 6 May, Sr. Therese Claire gives us this testimony: “All was set for an outdoor Mass when the sky began to close over, raising tension in all of us. Finally just 15 minutes before Mass our chaplain calls for and we begin to drag everything in. People began flowing in to the chapel and in my mind I wondered, how a little-stream of a chapel could hold this sea of people. But it worked and all in all I believe it is just as Sr. Raymunda would have wanted it. Ironically as we all settled in and the Mass commenced, the sky cleared and there was no rain till late in the afternoon, around 5pm when all our visitors had gone home. In fact, I believe she had to have her straightforward and simple way even in the cold hands of physical death. As we later reflected, Sr. Raymunda would never have allowed her casket to be taken to its final resting place from any place other than that sanctuary in which she had prayed for almost 40 years of her time in Cameroon… All in all, it could only have been the work of God! And the support of so many!”, Sr. Therese Claire concludes.

May the soul of Sr. Raymunda rest in peace and may she continue to pray for us from heaven, for her monastery, for the Dominican nuns in Cameroun, in Africa and in the Order of Preachers. May she continue to pray for peace in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon, and for all of us.

fr. Gabriel Samba, op.

**Preparations 10th Assembly ECLDF 2017 in Fatima**

4-7 October 2017 at Fatima

The ECLDF came together in Fatima in May 2017 to make further preparations for the 10th ECLDF Assembly this October in Fatima. We did this with the wonderful help of the Portuguese Lay Dominicans Gabriel Silva and his wife Cristina Busto.

Fatima is really a place of grace. In these days the Church is celebrating the encounter of three children with the Virgin Mary, 100 years ago. Mary gave them several messages for the world and many people since then have come to Fatima on a pilgrimage, putting their trust in the Holy Mother. It is therefore very special, that we, European Lay Dominicans will have our 10th Assembly there.

Grace is also what we received and published on the ECLDF website as a contribution to the Chain of Preachers of Hope from the Laity of almost all European Provinces/Vicariates. These testimonies made our renewed ECLDF website very lively and inspiring.

The theme, namely that as Lay Dominicans we are called and sent as preachers of hope, will be central when we are together at our 10th ECLDF Assembly. With joy we can announce three great speakers during this Assembly on the theme: Br Timothy Radcliffe, Br Bruno Cadoré and a religious sister from The Netherlands, totally involved and devoted to Dominican life: Yosé Höhne-Sparborth.
We are very honoured that our Master Br Bruno Cadoré will come to Fatima to talk with us about his view on the theme and also to meet us as European Lay Dominicans, sharing our questions, concerns and joy. And of course we are very happy about the participation of the famous former Master of the Order, Br Timothy Radcliffe, who has been inspiring us already for years with his speeches and books, and who this time will share his thoughts about our Assembly theme: Lay Dominicans, preachers of hope.

Yosé Höhne-Sparborth has worked for years with groups of traumatized Christians in Colombia as victims of violence. These days she does the same with groups of Christians of Iraq. She is deeply involved in the projects there of Br Yousif Thomas Mirkis, a Dominican who became the Chaldean Bishop of Kirkuk. Yosé will come to show us that it is really possible to be preachers of hope even in the most disturbed situations.

In workshops in several language groups we will discuss what we heard and what we can do ourselves as preachers of hope.

Well, and of course we need to hear from each other about our fraternities and our European connections as Lay Dominicans. Your present European Council will resign and we have to elect a new ECLDF in order for the activities to be continued.

We hope the 10th ECLDF Assembly will become an inspiration and feast of fraternal recognition. It would be marvellous if all Provinces/Vicariates were represented with at least one delegate, but two is better and of course we will be very glad to welcome all our Provincial Promoters.
You will soon hear more from us, when the organization is completed.
To you all, fraternal love. In St. Dominic and St. Catherine,
Leny Beemer, President ECLDF

Dom&Go: the international volunteers program of the Province of France

12-14th of May 2017, a new formation week-end of the international volunteers program of the Province of France - Dom&Go - took place in the Lille priory. Future volunteers could prepare themselves for their upcoming mission while former volunteers had an opportunity to assess their past missionary experience. Four young men and six young women have been sent to Cameroon, Congo, Colombia, and Benin, three others came back from Congo and Haiti and have shared their experience with the newcomers.

Founded in 2015 in the Lille priory, Dom&Go is the International volunteers program of the Province of France. Overall, 27 young volunteers have been sent throughout the world. Jobs and destinations of those young men and women vary greatly. From Peru to Congo Brazzaville, from Egypt to the Solomon Islands, a total of 10 countries spanning 5 continents already hosted volunteers and this list keeps on expanding with upcoming missions in Benin and Cameroon.

The Dom&Go leadership team is made up of Dominican brothers as well as lay people who frequently visit volunteers on the ground and seek new missions for future candidates.

Since its beginnings in 2015, Dom&Go is based on two main principles: community and mission. Each volunteer lives in a Dominican community and shares its day-to-day life (prayers, meals). In community life, he/she finds a human and spiritual support, which characterizes every Dom&Go project. Missions are chosen according to the volunteer’s profile: it can involve teaching, communication, health services, agriculture and management. Those missions last from 6 months to 2 years.

Volunteers are men and women of 20 to 30 years old, students or young professionals, willing to live an experience of mission and cultural immersion. Dom&Go sends French volunteers in foreign Dominican communities. It also welcomes foreign volunteers in French communities. Volunteers take their vocation as young Christians in the world to heart: they adopt the Dom&Go motto: “Go & Serve”.

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Two years after its launch, Dom&Go is getting quite known amongst French Catholic volunteers organizations. The number of application explodes and its notoriety grows steadily. The challenge of selection, formation and support of numerous volunteers always needs to be tackled. The Dom&Go team wants to keep the special ties it enjoys with each of its volunteers. Human and spiritual support remains the key issue to consider in order to make this personal, sometimes rough, experience a success.

The Dom&Go Team is seeking new missions in Dominican communities throughout the world. Do not hesitate to contact them!

**Website:** [http://www.domandgo.fr](http://www.domandgo.fr)

**Contact:** Fr Franck Dubois, op, Director contact@domandgo.fr

**Direction:** Couvent des Dominicains, 7 avenue Salomon, 59000 LILLE, FRANCE

**Facebook:** Dom&Go, [https://www.facebook.com(domandgo/?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/domandgo/?fref=ts)

**YouTube:** Dom&Go

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_vbMqYMbvX6yCVtjCsvcLg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_vbMqYMbvX6yCVtjCsvcLg)

**Meet the Dominican friar racing to save Iraq's ancient history from ISIS**

Wearing white gloves and using a dull knife, Father Najeeb Michael carefully flips through pages of yellowed, tattered manuscripts -- some of which are over a thousand years old.

"I want to show you something very rare. It's a little treasure."

From his office in Erbil, Michael shows us a 17th century Bible written in Aramaic, the language of Jesus. It's one of the thousands of antiquities he and his team have managed to keep out of the hands of ISIS.

Since ISIS came to prominence in 2014, it has targeted the country's cultural heritage. Michael, a Dominican priest, is on a mission to preserve it.

As director of the Digital Center for Eastern Manuscripts, Michael painstakingly digitized thousands of documents to ensure they remain available to future generations.

In August 2014, Michael was working in Qaraqosh, Iraq's largest Christian city. Knowing the militants would loot and destroy the city's antiquities should they find them, Michael formulated a plan.

Ten days before ISIS invaded the city, he stashed as many rare books, artifacts and art into his truck as he could find. He then fled for Erbil.

In shocking images seen around the world, many of the region's greatest archaeological treasures have been reduced to rubble. Propaganda videos released by ISIS show militants taking bulldozers and sledgehammers to the ancient ruins of Hatra, Khorsabad, Nimrud, and Nineveh.

Just like the Taliban destroyed 1,700-year-old Buddhas in Afghanistan in 2001, ISIS has looted and destroyed sites in Iraq and Syria belonging to religious minorities, including Christians and Yazidis.

The United Nations' cultural and educational agency, UNESCO, has described the destruction of landmarks in Iraq and Syria as a “war crime.”

The group justifies the destruction by claiming pre-Islamic art and religious shrines -- whether Islamic, Christian or Jewish -- is idolatrous. And yet, ISIS has sold many of the artifacts to black market buyers to finance its operations.
In November 2016, Michael returned to Qaraqosh with his team to collect what ISIS left behind.

“We cried about this kind of image what we saw there. It's horrible. It's some kind of genocide,” Michael said.

Many of the documents in Michael's collection are written in ancient languages including Aramaic, Latin and Ottoman Turkish. They date back centuries, if not more. The oldest is at least 1,100 years old.

Michael's collection isn't limited to Christian texts. There are works on ancient astrology, geography and history, as well as manuscripts belonging to other religions including Yazidis and Muslims.

Michael asked that we not share his exact location. He's afraid ISIS could loot the precious collection that remains.

Elizabeth Hagedorn. Videography by Yad Deen. Qaraqosh photos and video by Watheq Ghanem Majeed.

**Liturgy between Tradition and Actuality**


Dear Friars, Sisters, and members of the Dominican Family, now that the Order of Preachers has completed the festivities of our 800th Jubilee please receive this latest issue of Info/CLIOP entitled “Liturgy between Tradition and Actuality.” This issue is about music and our Dominican tradition. Music is one of the greatest creations of humans. It touches the soul and also helps us to sympathetically manifest unspoken desires. It has the capacity of breaking down boundaries and the capacity to unite people from different backgrounds and cultural heritages. This is true for members of the Order of Preachers. For 800 years, wherever Dominicans are found, one can hear the singing of a particular antiphon known by all the branches of the Order. The antiphon, the “O Lumen” is a tribute to the heroic virtues of our founder St. Dominic de Guzman, who is the Light of the Church, teacher of Truth, rose of patience, and ivory of chastity. The life of St. Dominic, as expressed in the “O Lumen,” invites the singer to pattern his or her life on the Gospel as did this joyful friar.

In the first part of this Info/CLIOP issue we are pleased to present to our readers an interesting reflection on the “O Lumen” by our Dominican brother, Robert Mehlahrt from Munich. He shares his reflections from his research. In the second part of this issue the Liturgical Commission wishes to present to you some Latin hymns collected for the Jubilee that were gathered into a new songbook to mark this important anniversary for the Order. The Master of the Order, fr. Bruno Cadore, pens the Introduction to this work. Following Bruno you will find additional reflections on the variety music that has informed our prayer and our Dominican life after Second Vatican Council by friars Gerfried Bramlage (Cologne), Innocent Smith (New York), and Sisters Ragnhild Bjelland (Oslo) and Marie (Genevieve Trainer, Langear).

In addition to the Latin hymn texts collected for the Jubilee, the members of CLIOP solicited from the friars, sisters, and other members of our world-wide Order more recent compositions, to be collected in a second volume entitled “Modern Songs.” These songs, composed after the Second Vatican Council until recently, were submitted in a variety of languages, showing the diversity of the Dominican family praising God through song. Here you can find these modern songs: http://www.op.org/en/content/cliop-jubilee-modern-songs.

May these reflections on the “O Lumen” and other music from our Dominican tradition found in this Info/CLIOP issue better inform and spiritually support your prayer, your study, your preaching, and your community life. St. Paul, in Ephesians 5:19, states it best when he urges believers to address one another and to make melody to the Lord “with all your heart”! This is our work—the work of those who follow the joyful friar, Dominic.

You can download a copy of InfoCLIOP here for CLIOP: fr. Thomas Möller OP, Mainz and Sr. Ragnhild Bjelland OP, Oslo
Fatima and the Dominican Charism

As Dominican Nuns living in Fatima we realize more and more the profound relationship between the Dominican charism and the Message of Fatima. This relationship is evidenced in two ways.

First, there are the more visible signs of that relationship. For instance, in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary on the left of the main altar there stands a statue of St. Dominic, Founder of the Order of Preachers. Over the main entrance to this same Basilica and welcoming every pilgrim to Fatima, is the great marble statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary sculpted by Fr. Thomas McGlynn, OP (1906 - 1977) who was a member of St. Joseph’s Province (USA). In addition there are also memorial statues in honor of Pope Pius XII and St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, both professed Dominicans. Finally, there is the living presence of all branches of the Dominican spiritual family: Friars, Nuns, Sisters and laity present in their convents and homes around the Shrine.

The second dimension in the relationship between Fatima and the Order of Preachers is that connection rooted in the fundamental purpose of the Dominican Order: to preach the Truth of the Gospel (evangelization) for the salvation of souls. Alongside this, Mary’s appeals for the prayer of the Holy Rosary form a strong link to the Order.

Evangelization and the Salvation of Souls

“If the Church has accepted the message of Fatima, it is above all because that message contains “a truth and a call” whose basic content is “the truth and the call of the Gospel” itself.” (St. Pope John Paul II, 13 May 1982 Fatima) In her book The Message of Fatima, Sr. Lucia wrote: “The Message is the revelation of God present in the world in the midst of men and women, and in particular in each one of us. It is not something new…The Message is more a new light to shine in the midst of the darkness of atheism, so that this will not succeed in extinguishing the light of faith which still shines in the hearts of the elect so that they, by following this light, can encounter Christ Jesus…Thus, when the time, the year and the hour predestined by God came, He sent us His Heavenly Messenger, to this earth of which She was the Mistress, the Queen, the Mother and Patron in order to establish His altar in that place, and from there set out to evangelize the whole world,…”

From the first apparition Our Lady asked the Little Shepherds if they were willing to “pray and sacrifice for poor sinners”. They said Yes, and thus were blessed with a desire for the salvation of souls making of them fervent young missionaries to the whole world though they never left their own terra! Bl. Jacinta in particular, after seeing the vision of hell (13 July 1917) repeated often with tears: “Poor sinners! We have to pray and make many sacrifices for them!”

St. Dominic, we know, used to weep and pray: “Lord, what will become of poor sinners?” “The blessed Dominic had a great and burning thirst for the salvation of souls, for which he was an unequaled apostle. He gave himself to preaching with great fervor, and he exhorted and obliged his brothers to announce the Word of God by day and by night, in churches and in homes, in the fields and along the way in other words, in all places to speak only of God.” (As quoted in the Letter to the Order, Advent 2008)

The Holy Rosary

Throughout the history of the Dominican Order, the Rosary has been preached as a method of prayer, an instrument of evangelization and a means of personal and family sanctification. In times of crisis itinerant Dominican preachers have responded with great zeal praying and preaching the Rosary. Among many other Popes, St. Pope John Paul II recognized this: “The history of the Rosary shows how this prayer was used in particular by the Dominicans at a difficult time for the Church due to the spread of heresy.” (RVM No. 17)

For the Dominican, evangelization is closely associated with the Rosary since the Rosary is not only a compendium of the Gospel “it is a gospel in action: a popular evangelical program of faith, morals and Christian piety. It is, at the same time, a constant revelation of the Heart of Christ and of the Heart of His divine
Mother. For the Rosary unceasingly proposes for the loving commemoration of souls the great accomplishments of Their love, which are the mysteries of the Redemption. Without a doubt this is the reason for Fatima, for Our Lady knows very well the theology of her Rosary and of her Heart.” (Fr. Marceliano Llameras, OP) Simply stated: “The Rosary is the Gospel with Mary!”

In summary we can say that Fatima is like the lamp of a lighthouse shining its strong beam directly on its object. In Fatima that light is the “inextinguishable lamp” of the Immaculate Heart of Mary shining with splendor on the Gospel of Her Divine Son bringing grace, mercy and hope eternal for all. St. Dominic’s “Marian devotion was inseparable from his apostolic zeal.” The light of Mary shone through Dominic making him a true light of Christ in the Church – Lumen Ecclesiae!

Diamond Jubilee of Dominican Twin Brothers, Peter and Isidore Clarke, OP

Frs Peter and Isidore Clarke are twin brothers and Dominicans friars of the English Province. Today, 11th May 2017, they celebrated 60 years in the priesthood. There is a short reflection from fr Isidore.

Sixty years ago I designed my ordination card, with this quotation from St. Paul’s 1st Letter to the Corinthians, “This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed.” (1 Cor. 4.1)

That’s what ordination to the priesthood meant to me then. That’s what it still means to me, sixty years later.

On 11th May 1957 my twin brother, Peter, and I were ordained priests. We became servants of Christ, entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed – entrusted with the Ministries of Word and Sacrament. As ministers of the Word we had been called to proclaim the Good News of Salvation. As ministers of the sacraments Christ has empowered us to make His sacrifice on the cross present in every celebration of the Holy Mass. We have been called to be ministers of His Mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I have seen and personally experienced the peace which the Sacrament of the Sick has brought to me and to other sick people. Our calling is to love God and people and, with His help, bring them together. For me as a priest it has been my joy and privilege to help people to meet Jesus.

But that is a daunting task. Instinctively we say, “Why me? Lord I’m not worthy.” But if God had to wait until we became perfect, before He entrusted the priestly ministry to anyone, He would never have any priests! But He has entrusted His work to us vessels of clay. We have His reassurance that when He calls us to do something He always gives us the strength to carry out His will – provided we pray for His help. St. Paul even reassures us that God choses the foolish of this world to confound the wise. We crazy twin brothers adequately meet this particular requirement. Whether or not we’ve confound any of the wise, God only knows!

Is being a priest a worthwhile, fulfilling life? Without hesitation both of us, after sixty years, would definitely reply, “Yes, Yes, Yes!” Certainly, there are difficulties and setbacks. But that is true of any worthwhile walk of life. We’ve been ordained to share in Christ’s priesthood and to identify with Him in His sacrifice on the cross, made present at every Mass we offer. For Christ and for us, that means self-giving and sometimes painful self-sacrifice.

But what could be more worthwhile than being God’s ministers in helping people on the road to salvation. And this causes me great concern. Peter and I, together with many other elderly priests, are getting near the end of our lives. If you are to continue to have Mass, Confession, and all the other mysteries of God, you are going to need more priests. Today I take this opportunity to urge you to pray for vocations. I urge young men to ask themselves whether God is calling them to serve Him and you in the priesthood. Do not be afraid to say “Yes.” God needs you; His people need you.
Finally, I want our Anniversary to be a day of thanksgiving. First of all, to God in calling us to the priesthood, and then in supporting us throughout the ups and downs of our ministry. Next, I want to thank all the people who have helped us over the years - our family and friends, our Dominican communities, and you, the extended members of our Dominican family. Without your support we could not have coped.

I have posted one of my paintings on Facebook. This is based on the risen Lord accompanying the disciples on the road to Emmaus and opening their minds and hearts to the Scriptures. That is what He is doing for Peter and me, on our journey through life. Through the Scripture He has touched our minds and hearts and changed our lives. Though we’ve now been separated by the Atlantic for 58 years the Lord has always been with Twin Clarke Unlimited, drawing us close to Him, close to each other. Skype helps us to be especially aware of being united in the Lord. Now we can sing the breviary together, co-operate on sermons, broadcasts and Newspaper articles. I thank God and our parents for blessing me with a Dominican twin.

To Peter on our jubilee day, I say, “Thanks, ower Kid!”

Before this becomes like an Oscar acceptance speech I better stop, with the words from Psalm 115. 1, which have guided our priesthood and inspired today’s celebration.

“Not to us, Lord, not to us, but to your name give the glory!”

Isidore O.P.

Archbishop Piretto, OP: “The Extremism of Charity bears good fruits”

Archbishop Lorenzo Piretto, the Dominican Archbishop of Smyrna, Turkey like “The Extremism of Charity” which was invoked by Pope Francis in his recent trip to Egypt. It is an extremism that he knows so well and has lived daily during his 35 years in Turkey, a land traversed by strong contrasts. But “in reality, it is not exactly how it is represented”. Archbishop Piretto is in Bolzano, northern Italy where on the 6th of May, he ordained a Dominican friar and native of Bolzano, Luca Refatti to the priesthood. These were his thoughts on the mission in Turkey.

Dialogue and Respect

These are the two columns on which the presence of the Church in Smyrna rests. In my 35 years of presence in Turkey, I have always found people open to dialogue and very welcoming. In Turkey, we live daily the message of charity. If it is accepted and respected by the other, he opens up and in turn welcomes and respects you.

For the 35 years I have been in Turkey, there have been challenges. That is true. Of course, it takes caution and you have to be careful. But that is how it is everywhere. Sometimes they tell me that I am too optimistic. But I do not think so”.

In Turkey, I have never had any problem. I have always found people who are disposed to dialogue and are welcoming. Certainly, we need to have an attitude of openness, dialogue and respect towards others. Turks have a strong feeling towards their cultural identity, but at the same time, they are people who are open to encounter others and to dialogue with them.

Stay among the people with humility

When Pope Francis spoke of “The extremism of charity”, I had a flash back of my years in Turkey and I can that is a positive extremism which bears good fruits. The message of charity which we as a Christian community live in Turkey has shown to us that, if the people are welcomed and respected, they will be opened and they will in turn welcome you and respect you. You have to immerse yourself in the midst of others with humility. In all these years, as a priest, as a Dominican and now as a bishop, my task is to be among the people with an attitude of human and religious sympathy.
Turkey is a country more diverse than any other Arabian country. Islam is much more tolerant and welcoming here. There is no much religious hostilities as much as nationalistic (political) hostilities. I explain. The Turks have a strong sense of identity and this must be respected. They have a much richer history than most people and this history must be respected because it remains a part of the present existence of the people.

**Always welcomed as a member of the family**
Archbishop Piretto have taught Latin for several years at the Faculty of Islamic Theology. They have always welcomed me as a member of the family. And that is not all. In my experience as a professor, I have always found a healthy curiosity towards Christianity, a disposition to dialogue and to knowledge. Over the years, the Christian community which is in the minority has changed greatly. If, with the passage of time, the number of Catholics in Europe has decreased, the number of Filipino migrants who have come to Turkey to work has increased.

Christians who have come from Europe since the Middle Ages have gradually disappeared and in recent decades the Catholic Church has been involved in inculturation. It is no longer seen as a foreign Church but as a Church that exists in Turkey. We are experiencing an extraordinary process of inculturation and this is the most beautiful change I have ever seen.

**Language is not an obstacle.**
Archbishop Piretto and all the 14 priests of the archdiocese celebrate the Eucharist in different languages. Language does not present an obstacle, but a bridge to proclaim the Word and to encounter the people. We celebrate the Eucharist in English, Turkish, Italian, French, Korean and Spanish.

**Mary, the bridge of unity between the Islamic and the Christian world**
Archbishop Piretto is also a testimony to Islam-Christian dialogue. Not only on the academic level but also in his daily life. And in all these, Mary remains a fundamental figure for him.

Shortly before coming to Italy, I went to Ephesus, to the House of Mary. Today there are almost no European pilgrims, but there are so many Korean pilgrims, as well as from Argentina. When I was there a few days ago, there were Muslim faithful praying there. Mary is truly the bridge of the union between the Islamic and the Christian world. Mary is for us Christians and for the Muslim faithful the model of the person that prays.

**The Commitment of the Local Caritas towards Migrants**
One of the challenges facing Turkey today is that of migrants. There 4 million Syrian migrants who are being processed because they have a transit visa. But then, there are Iraqis, Afghans and Iranians who cannot stay in the big cities and who are expecting to move to another country. As a local Caritas (ours is a small Caritas), we try to help them without thinking that our help is a form of proselytizing. There is also the daily Caritas. This is also an expression of the “Extremism of Caritas”, as Pope Francis calls it.

**Diocesan Priests of the Province of St. Albert the Great Present Local Directory**
Since the inaugural meeting of invited diocesan priests on 25 June 2014, the Province of St. Albert the Great in the USA has witnessed the growth of a dedicated group of priests who journeyed together in the Dominican Family. The seven priests who were received into the fraternities on 27 February 2015 all made their promise in the following year on September 14, the same date that saw the admission of two more priests. Furthermore, with one priest making the promise in June 2015, and another received in November 2016, the fraternity-information now has a total of 11 members.

With the election of the group's prior in the person of Fr. John Mary Lovitsch of the Diocese of Joliet, the priests proceeded to formulate the local norms for the envisioned fraternity, which shall have its seat at the Priory of St. Vincent Ferrer in River Forest, Illinois, USA. Composed
of a total of 40 items contained in nine articles, the proposed local directory promises to be a well-crafted set of norms that would provide extensive guide to the governance of the fraternity, especially on relevant matters that are not indicated in the current Rule. This set of local norms would represent not only the existence of an independent group, but also the character and nature that is peculiar to the priests of the region.

The directory was presented during the meeting of the members with the General Promoter of the Priestly Fraternities, fr. Florentino Bolo Jr., OP, on 2 May 2017 at the Cabrini Hall of the St. Vincent Ferrer Grade School, just beside the priory. The gathering was organized by the Provincial Promoter, fr. Thomas McDermott, OP, who was also present during the meeting, together with the four professed members, namely, Fathers Dennis Paul, Matthew Pratscher, and John Lovitsch of the Diocese of Joliet, and Fr. Jordan Christopher Fetcko of the Diocese of Gary. The proposed text shall be submitted for approval by the Provincial, Fr. James Marchionda, OP, and his council.

On the day preceding the meeting of the priests, fr. Tom likewise arranged for a brief conference, still on the subject of the secular priests in the Dominican Order, between fr. Florentino and the six novices of the Province, who were then visiting together with their Master, Fr. Robert Keller, OP. All visitors were welcomed at the Priory of St. Vincent Ferrer by its Prior, fr. Michael DeTemple, OP.

**fr Bruno visits the mission territories of the Order in Myanmar, Timor Leste, Hong Kong and Macau**

The Master of the Order Father Bruno Cadoré, and his Socius for Asia-Pacific Fr. Gerald Francis Timoner, visited the friars of Our Lady of the Rosary Province that are working in the missions of Myanmar, Timor Leste, Singapore, Hong Kong and Macau during the period of 27 March to 7 April 2017.

They started the visit in Myanmar and they visited the brothers that are working in the areas of Loikaw, Mandalay and Yangon. They appreciated the new developments done during the last four years with the building of the new church in the parish of St. Gemma Galgani in Yangon and the new chapel and churches in the house of St. Thomas Aquinas in Nawalawo Village in Loikaw, Kayah State. In Mandalay they visited the social centre and educational supplementary centre of St. Martin de Porres where special supplementary education is given to about 150 high school children. The last stage was the House of St. Dominic of Yangon where they talked with the pre-novices and in the company of the three Fathers visited the parish of St. Gemma Galgani.

From Yangon they flight to Dili, Timor Leste. They travelled by car to Hatudo to visit the mission, the church and the schools of the mission. They returned to Dili and had a meeting with the Fathers, with the aspirants and with the Dominican Family working in Timor Leste.

And from Dili they flight to Hong Kong with stopover in Singapore where they visited the two Fathers working in the House of St. Francis Capillas. They took a late flight for Hong Kong that landed in Hong Kong’s airport at midnight and they arrived at St. Albert’ Priory in the early hours of 5 April. They joined the community in the morning prayers and mass and after breakfast, Father Bruno Cadoré started talking with different groups of brothers in formation. Master Bruno Cadoré held talks with the Chinese student brothers, with the Chinese priests and deacons and with all the Chinese priests working in the mission of China. After lunch, Master Bruno Cadoré held a meeting with the group of novices.

At 5:00 pm Fr. Bruno Cadoré and Fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner left for Macau to conduct de second canonical visitation to the Studentate. Fr. Provincial accompanied them arriving in the evening to have dinner with the community and they held a group meeting with the student brothers. On the morning of April 6, Fr. Bruno
presided and preached at the Conventual Mass. They left for Hong Kong after having breakfast with the community.

Back in Hong Kong and after lunch at St. Albert Priory, Fr. Bruno and Fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner held a fruitful meeting with the Formation Council of the Province. Later on in the late afternoon, they went to the Provincial House of St. Joseph in Kowloon to meet the postulants and have dinner with the community. They came back to St. Albert Priory and in the morning of 7 April, Fr. Bruno presided and preached at the Conventual Mass. After the mass there was time to have a historical photo with all the members of the community of St. Albert.

After breakfast, Fr. Bruno met first Fr. Provincial. Afterwards Fr. Bruno and Fr. Gerald held a working meeting with the Provincial Council and the representatives of the missions of the Province in Hong Kong and Macau, Manila, Taiwan and Japan. After the meeting it was time for lunch and friendly sharing with the community. In the midafternoon Fr. Bruno and Fr. Gerard left for the airport and took the plane back to Rome.

The Fifteen Tuesdays Devotion to St Dominic kicks off at St Dominic’s Valletta, Malta

The spiritual journey towards the Feast of our Holy Father St. Dominic began with the First Tuesday celebration held in the Principal Matrix Parish Basilica of Our Lady of Safe Haven and St Dominic in Valletta, Malta.

The celebration was led by the Prior and Parish Priest Fr. Michael Camilleri OP., Fr Paul Gatt OP, immediate Past Provincial and Fr Raymond Gatt OP, sub-prior.

According to the Breviary of the Order, the tradition of dedicating Tuesdays to Our Holy Father St. Dominic takes its origins right from the beginnings of the Order. The first translations of the relics of our holy Patriarch took place on Whit-Tuesday (May 24) in the year 1233 at Bologna. Successive Chapters from 1239 to 1282 introduced various liturgical practices into the rubrics of the Mass and Office of the Order, as a means of fostering devotion to St. Dominic. This process culminated in the act of the Chapter of 1362, which introduced the practice of dedicating the 3rd day of the week (Tuesday) to the holy Patriarch. From this point forward, on every Tuesday outside of Lent, the Mass of the day was to be his Mass, with a commemoration of him in the Office.

The specific practice of the Devotion of the 15 Tuesdays was instituted in Florence in the year 1631. During an occurrence of the plague that year, a Fr. Michael Bruni, of the Dominican monastery of Santa Maria Novella, exhorted the faithful to pray to St. Dominic, and promise to receive Communion on 15 consecutive Tuesdays, presumably in honour of the 15 decades of the Rosary. The success of this effort led to a rapid spread of the 15 Tuesdays devotion. Pope Pius VII granted an indulgence for those who availed themselves of the pious practice in honour of St. Dominic.

The Parish Basilica of St Dominic in Valletta is the only Dominican Church in the world, except for the Patriarchal Basilica of Bologna, to have been granted a special dispensation to continue to commemorate the Solemnity of the Feast of St Dominic on August 4th. Ever since the reform of the liturgical calendar, the feast was celebrated on the Sunday before August 4.

Since last year, however, the Community decided to start holding the feast on the first Sunday of August. Thus, this year the Feast will be held on Sunday, August 6th ... a happy coincidence since St Dominic actually died on August 6, 1221. This year, the Fifteen Tuesdays in the Parish Basilica of Valletta will, therefore, be celebrated between April 24 and August 1, 2017. In his homily to the sizeable congregation, Fr Camilleri stressed that these 15 Tuesdays will be an occasion for the devotees of the Dominican parish to get to know their spiritual father better and thereby to get closer to Christ Our Lord.

Alfred Grixti, Lay Dominican,
Parish Basilica of Of Lady of Safe Haven and St Dominic, Valletta, Malta.
Official News

The Socius of the Master for Fraternal Life and Formation

The Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré has appointed fr Vivian Boland as his Socius for Fraternal Life and Formation. This is the first time he is making this appointment and it is in accordance with the Acts of the General Chapter of Bologna 2016 (nos. 306-308).

Fr Vivian is from the Province of Ireland and he has just concluded his tenure as the Socius of the Master for Northwestern Europe and Canada and the Vicar of the Master of the Order.

Born in 1953, fr Vivian made his first profession of religious vows in 1972 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1978. He has since served in various capacities both within and outside his home Province:
• Regent of Studies in the Province of Ireland
• Master of Students in the Province of England
• Director of the Aquinas Institute
• Taught at the House of Studies in Tallaght, St Mary’s University in London, and Blackfriars Oxford where he was also a member of the Theology Faculty of the University of Oxford

According to the Acts of Bologna, the Socius for fraternal life and formation is to;
- help the Master of the Order in all things which pertain to fraternal life and religious formation of the brethren, whether initial or ongoing.
- help all the Provinces, that they might provide for the religious formation of the brethren and for the flourishing of fraternal life;
- when possible, to gather together the masters of initial formation as well as the promoters of permanent formation of one or several regions.
- facilitate for the provinces the instruction and formation of formators as well as the development and execution of the plans of the provinces pertaining to ongoing formation.

Fr Alain Arnould is the New Socius for Northwestern Europe and Canada

The Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré has appointed fr Alain Arnould as his Socius for Northwestern Europe and Canada. Fr Alain is a son of the Vice Province of St Thomas Aquinas in Belgium and he succeeds fr Vivian Boland who has just completed his tenure.

Fr Alain was born in 1961 at Bruges where he grew up in a wonderful family. He studied Marketing and History of Art at Ghent, London and Cambridge Universities. He came across the Dominicans during his PhD studies. He was part of a bold and extraordinary project of the English Province which consisted of a lay community at the Cambridge Priory. No less than 6 religious vocations sprang up from this project, five of which were for the Dominican family.

After lecturing at London University for a year, fr Alain joined the Belgian entity of the Order. His formation years were spread out between these cities; Strasbourg, Froidmont, Lille and London. He made his first profession in 1994 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1999.

In 2001, he was part of the foundation of the St Dominic International Priory in Brussels. For sixteen year, he has been the Chaplain of the Artists in Brussels which offered him the opportunity to take many initiatives in the visual arts, music and theatre in an attempt to bridge the gap between the Church and Arts. This ministry changed him from a scholar in mediaeval manuscripts to a passionate defender of today's artistic expressions. No doubt, it was because of this experience that the Master of the Order asked him to coordinate the Jubilee
Art Exhibition “Auguri” which was held at Santa Sabina, Rome last Winter as part of the Jubilee celebration of the Order.

Now resident at Santa Sabina, Fr Alain expresses his mind; “My new task and move to Santa Sabina are very challenging for me. With God’s help and the brethren’s mercy, I hope I shall meet some of the expectations! I look forward to meeting and serving the members of the Order of Preachers in the part of the world I am assigned for the next six years”.

**Fr Brendan Curran is the North America Regional Promoter of Justice and Peace**

The Master of the Order, Fr Bruno Cadoré has appointed Fr Brendan Curran as the Regional Promoter of Justice and Peace for North America.

Fr Brendan is from the Province of St Albert the Great, USA and he will be working in close collaboration with Fr Mike Deeb, the General Promoter for Justice and Peace in the Order.

Fr Brendan was born in 1970. He studied Political Science at Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island before entering the Order. He made his first profession in the Order in 1995. He had his studies at Aquinas Institute of Theology after which he was ordained to the priesthood in 2001.

After his ordination, he served as the Pastor of St. Pius V Catholic Church and Elementary School. He is currently the Promoter for Justice and Peace in his Province and the special assistant to the President of the Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois.

**Fr Juan Manuel Hernández is the New Provincial of Santiago de Mexico**

The friars of the Province of Santiago de Mexico, gathered at their Provincial Chapter, have elected Fr Juan Manuel Hernández Hernández as their new Prior Provincial for the next four years. The Master of the Order, Fr Bruno Cadoré has confirmed the election and Fr Juan Manuel has accepted. He succeeds Fr Jorge Rafael Díaz Nunez who has just concluded his term.

Fr Juan Manuel was born in 1970 at Purísima de Bustos, Guanajuato, Mexico. He made his first profession in the Order in 1998 and was ordained to the priesthood in 2007. He has a Licence in Civil Law and a Pontifical Licentiate in Canon Law.

As a canonist, he has been an adviser to the provincial and also a member of the Provincial Council. He has been the Promoter of Vocations and Youth Ministry and also a Professor at the Provincial House of Studies. As at the time of his election, he was the Prior of the Novitiate Convent of San Luis Beltrán.
Calendar of the Master of the Order for June 2017

May 29–June 1: IAOP Meeting at Ibadan, Nigeria
5–19: Visitation to the Province of Central America
22–29: Visitation to Iran and Iraq

All articles are available on www.op.org