Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Warm greetings from Rome!
After the hectic activity of our Jubilee Year, we are now trying to follow up on the many new commitments we have made!

One of the recurrent themes from our Jubilee was the importance of us renewing our preaching to be advocates of peace (like Dominic) in a world torn apart by many forms of violence and war. There is hardly a country anywhere that is spared from this harsh reality that breeds fear, insecurity, and the assertion of narrow ethnic and religious identities, that result in enormous suffering, death and displacement of entire communities.

While many Dominicans are already involved in forms of preaching that are bringing hope to such situations, we would now like to promote a global Dominican solidarity for all such efforts. We therefore propose to identify a period each year when Dominicans everywhere will pray for peace, and will offer solidarity for a particular project for peace.

The period we propose is Advent, when we are all waiting for the incarnation of the Prince of Peace. Our focus on Peace will then start on the First Sunday of Advent and culminate on the Church’s World Day of Peace on 1 January. Each December will therefore be our Month for Peace.

Our focus of solidarity this year (2017) will be on Colombia. There are several Dominican brothers and sisters who have been very engaged during the most difficult periods of the war there. Now, with all the more reason, they are supporting the implementation of the Peace Accord that was signed in 2016. It is their appeal for
solidarity that has inspired us to institute this Dominican Month for Peace. We therefore invite all members of the Dominican Family to join this solidarity effort.

In order to identify our focuses in future years, we have invited our sisters of DSI to join us to elaborate its direction. We call on our Dominican entities everywhere to reflect on their own efforts for peace that would benefit from a global Dominican solidarity. We then invite any entity which has developed a concrete project to make a request to be the focus of our Dominican Month for Peace in the years to come. This request can be made through the Order’s General Promoter for Justice and Peace or the DSI International Promoter for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.

2017 Focus on Colombia
You may have heard about the historic Peace Accord that was signed in Colombia in November 2016 between the government and the oldest and largest guerrilla group in the region, the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). After more than 50 years of confrontation, the parties to the armed conflict have decided to end one of the most tragic and devastating cycles of violence in this country and in Latin America. In a world where the threat of war is the growing tendency, this effort to build peace needs to be strongly encouraged.

For several decades, Dominican brothers and sisters have been involved in the accompaniment of communities affected by the conflict in various parts of the country, one of the areas most affected being Catatumbo. This year’s campaign will encourage the whole Order during the Month of Peace (December) to support them in their efforts to forge peace and reconciliation in Colombia through:

1. **Prayer:**
   - Each entity is asked to organise at least one Prayer Vigil and Solemn Eucharist for Peace and Reconciliation in Colombia.
   - This can be done creatively to raise awareness about the peace process in Colombia and how it relates to the local reality.
   - Our monasteries of nuns are especially requested to strengthen the project through their prayers throughout the month.

2. **Preaching:**
   - We are all asked to incorporate this focus on peace in Colombia into our ordinary Advent preaching.

3. **Collection of Works of Art:**
   - All artists within the Order are invited to contribute towards the process of peace and reconciliation in three possible ways:
     - Produce a work of art to be sent to Colombia to be placed in a space of solidarity;
     - Produce a work of art to be placed in local symbolic spaces in the home country to raise local and global awareness of the need for peace and reconciliation; or
     - Offer a training course in Colombia to stimulate and train local Dominicans and other local people to develop their artistic skills that can contribute towards peace and reconciliation.

4. **A Collection or Financial Contribution:**
   - In order to support the establishment of a network of peacemakers, “Pacificultores”, made up of people who promote a culture of peace in Catatumbo, we are asked for a contribution that will be used to:
     - develop an Institute of Research and Formation in the Diocese of Tibú to train local church and community members in skills to become peacemakers in the region.
     - produce educational resources and other materials that can assist the development of a culture of peace.
   - Inspire effective peace-building actions.

5. **Contact with the local Colombian Embassy:**
   - Ensure that the local embassy of Colombia is informed about the Order’s focus on solidarity with Colombia’s Peace Process.
   - Invite the ambassador and other embassy officials to participate in any activities organised.
   - The embassy is encouraged to address the concerns raised by Dominicans in Colombia.

How to send contributions?
Financial Donations: via the Provincial Curia
Our Request
1. We request each entity to identify a coordinator and a team of people to promote and coordinate this project.
2. Please inform our promoters of Justice and Peace, fr Mike Deeb un@curia.op.org and Sr Cecilia Espenilla jp.dsi@curia.op.org of the name of the coordinator appointed for your entity.

Thank you very much for your cooperation! We pray that, through this small action, solidarity amongst us all can grow and, in turn, enable our preaching mission to have a greater impact in bringing Good News to our world.

In St Dominic,

Fr Bruno Cadoré  
Master of the Order  
Fr Mike Deeb  
General Promoter for Justice and Peace  
Sr Cecilia Espenilla  
DSI International Promoter for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation  
Rome, the 1th october 2017

Saint Martin de Porres, OP – Community, His First Preaching

Saint Martin de Porres, O.P. a seventeenth century Dominican Friar, was born in Lima, Peru on December 9, 1575 and lived with three other saints, Juan Macias, Rose of Lima and Turibius of Mongrovejo, Archbishop of Lima. Their lives and ministries are the cause of great interest in the work of evangelization, not only because of their holiness, but also because of their presence and importance for the Church in Lima at that time.

Martin de Porres’ ministry was expressed through caring for the sick and the dying of his Dominican community, of those among the despised of the streets of Lima, and of those who had no hope. Assigned as the community infirmarian of Holy Rosary Priory, which at the time numbered nearly three hundred friars, Martin applied his skills acquired as a barber-surgeon to the brothers of the community. Caring for his brothers in his community was his first preaching.

Martin’s compassion and charity for the sick and the aged, bringing the Gospel of hope and healing to those who were orphaned and homeless in the slums and barrios of Lima, to those suffering from stigmatized illnesses or lifestyles, was his lived expression of the life of St. Dominic as consoler of the sick and those in distress. His influence in caring for the poor and the sick of Lima resulted in the establishment of an orphanage and a hospital for children. Martin also had a devotion to all God’s creatures especially those who were suffering. He had a special affection for animals, which is often displayed in Dominican iconography.

What does the life of St. Martin mean for us today? If we have been awaked and informed of systemic changes in our world today, we cannot help but be aware of the plight of the poor, the disenfranchised, the unwanted and the unloved. We find such persons in our families, among our students and colleagues, in the places where we pray, in our neighborhoods and cities, and indeed throughout the world. Their numbers are countless. We know too well that the moral compass of life has dramatically shifted away from a moral ethic that promotes
and defends human dignity and freedom toward an ethic built on relativism, individualism, autonomy, and the commodification of the human person.

The vocation of consoler of the sick and to those in distress that we find in the life of St. Martin de Porres and which was lived, breathed and embraced by his brothers, finds its roots clearly in Jesus’ own ministry to the sick, to the dying, to those troubled in any way and especially to the despised of his day. Caring for one another with compassion, affirming and protecting human dignity and freedom, living the virtue of charity and practicing forgiveness toward all, valuing the sacredness of human life of every person comprise the gift that St. Martin DePorres’ embodies.

Our lived response to fulfilling this mission will not be any easier today than it was in the times of St. Martin. Like Martin we too will discover that we are called to live along the lines of human brokenness, to respond to all persons especially those who are wounded, unwanted and unloved, to our brothers and sisters who live in families, in communities, and in nations, particularly those who live under oppressive conditions that crucify humanity in its flesh and in its unity.[1] In this encounter, we will experience the privilege and the grace to see, to touch, to nourish, and to care for our brothers and sisters in community, the lost, the least and the last among us, all of whom are masterpieces of God’s creative love for us.

Bro. Ignatius Perkins, O.P.
Province of St. Joseph, U.S.A

**Dominican Compline App**

*Night Prayer According to the Dominican Tradition*

For a little over a year, Preachingfriars.org, the preaching apostolate of the Dominican Studium in St. Louis, Missouri (for the Provinces of St. Albert the Great, USA and St. Martin de Porres, USA) have been developing a smart phone application called "Dominican Compline."

The app allows users to listen as the friars chant Compline, and it presents the text and music so that they may follow along and pray with us. It features a setting of Compline in English that was produced by Frs. David Wright, O.P. and James-Peter Trares, O.P.

This setting presents Compline in English as envisaged by the Liturgia horarum (1971) and as enriched by the proper Dominican elements proposed in the Supplement of 1982. These elements are not simply additional texts; often the plainsong melody is the proper Dominican element.

The app is now available on both the App Store (for iOS devices) and the Google Play Store (for android devices), and it can be downloaded for free. I invite you to download it by visiting our website. I would also encourage you to share this link with members of the Dominican Family, as well as anyone else whom you think may benefit from it. Our hope in producing the app is to enrich people's prayer lives by giving them a taste of Dominicans praying.

The app is far from complete. The new Compline setting includes many proper elements depending upon the liturgical season. It also includes proper elements for various feasts and solemnities that are unique to the Dominicans. We anticipate rolling these out as soon as the student brothers are able to record them.
The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ And Renewal Of Creation

From annihilation to renewal: How the resurrection of the Jesus Christ changed the fate of the universe.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is sui generis. An event anticipated before the Incarnation. This unique event has implications that cut across both time and eternity. It addresses the despair of humanity in the face of apparent triumph of evil over good. More so, the fear of death which ushers in a finality that is unknown places a shackle on the human person who looks forward to happiness and continuity of existence. The fate of creation is also embedded in this one event. In the mystery of the incarnation, Jesus Christ took humanity, a reprehensive and climax of God’s good creation, so that in his resurrection, he redeemed creation from decay. Jesus’ resurrection is not aimed at annihilating God’s good creation but re-create the universe to the original plan of God.

Okechukwu Paulinus Onyenuru is a Dominican Friar from Nigeria. He holds a B.Sc degree in Microbiology from Lagos State University, B.A in Philosophy from UI and B.Th in Theology from Angelicum, Rome.

His book which hinges the renewal of creation on the resurrection of Jesus Christ is another voice in the area of Theology of Hope.

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The book is available at Morebooks and Amazon.

UST hosts regional seminar for preaching for Dominican family

The Dominican Province of the Philippines, the Institute of Preaching, and the Dominican Family held the opening ceremonies of Vade Praedica (Go Preach): A Regional Colloquium on Dominican Preaching in Asia and the Pacific” on October 10, 2017 at the Buenaventura G. Paredes O.P. Building.

Faith in the time of advancement
According to Rector Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P., PhD, while technological advancement offer people convenience, comfort, and ease, it affects not only the preaching apostolate but also the way we believe . “Digital age makes us easily distracted from the critical issues of our lives.” Dagohoy said.

“The bites and bits of information we receive each day lead to a life that is lived from moment to moment. [Thus] we find it hard to see the bigger picture,” Fr. Dagohoy said social media has produced a platform where people could have a network of relations but hardly present with each other.

“Preaching today has become very demanding and challenging task, yet it is delightful to see people like you who are […] generous in responding to God’s call but also steadfast in believing that preaching is primarily God’s work,” Fr. Dagohoy said. “He has called us to preach and he is also the one who will call its growth.”
Vade Praedica is a three-day event that ran October 12, 2017 that will feature lectures/fora. Various speakers shared their experiences in their vocation in concurrent sessions on the last day.

**Dominican Sisters’ Delegation to Iraq Postponed Indefinitely**

Regional instability causes delay, and reignites Springfield Dominicans’ commitment to their Iraqi Dominican Family

“The moment the referendum passed that traveling to Iraq would be difficult for the delegates, if not impossible,” said Springfield Dominican Sister Marcelline Koch, who is justice promoter for the Dominicans in North America and has traveled to Iraq previously. She was not scheduled to be on this delegation. “Now we watch once again with dismay as we pray and hope this recent military action will not bring more violence and death to the people of Iraq.”

The decision to postpone the trip was made by the Iraq Coordinating Committee (ICC) after hearing from the sisters in Iraq that it was not feasible to travel to or within the country at this time. The ICC is a committee of the North American Dominican Justice Promoters. Sister Marcelline and Sister Beth Murphy, communications director for the Springfield Dominicans, are committee members.

The sisters have heard from their Dominican sisters and brothers in the volatile region that even amid disruption and uncertainty they continue to carry our their ministries and manage to find hope.

Sister Luma Khudher, OP, council member for the Iraq congregation, said the Dominican sisters in Kirkuk were safe going about their ministry and study. Though community leadership asked them to return to Erbil after Iraqi government forces moved into the area, they decided to remain in the city because traveling through the crowded checkpoints could be dangerous. Sister Luma lived and study with the Springfield Dominicans 2002-2012.

Sisters in other parts of the country also continue their ministries in the aftermath of a 3-year displacement and occupation by ISIS. Until this week it was uncertain what would become of the sisters’ school in the Erbil suburb of Ankawa for children displaced by ISIS. They’ve received word from the Kurdish government that they will be allowed to reopen as long as they do not accept any new students or start a new first grade. A handful of sisters have returned to the village of Qaraqosh and are preparing school for the children whose families have returned there. Other sisters intend to return to other villages and resume their ministries as they are able.

The Chaldean archbishop of Kirkuk, Dominican friar Yousif Thomas Mirkis, also communicated with the U.S. Dominicans about his relief that the situation in his city remained calm. “After the Mass, I asked the people in the church to pray, that God help us to avoid any kind of bloodshed,” he said, adding that he feels they avoided what could have been a much worse situation. “Now we have less anxiety and we look forward with hope.”

As a reminder that the effects of ISIS’ incursion into Iraq in 2014 are long-lasting and systemic, he said “We are trying to do our best to heal the wounds, helping the victims: children, women, old persons, feeding the IDP’s” in Hawija, a village 30 miles southwest of Kirkuk.

“You can say to our family in the US, I count on their prayers,” he wrote in an email to the US Dominicans.
Dominicans in the US are determined to keep their fellow citizens aware of what is happening to their family in Iraq. “While there will be no physical presence of US Dominicans in Iraq for the time being, we are still committed to our solidarity with our Iraqi sisters and brothers and the people of all faiths they serve,” said Sister Beth Murphy.

News about the delegation can be followed at the ICC’s Facebook page.

Those who would like to financially support the Dominicans in Iraq may donate here now.

The three Dominicans who were to travel to Iraq Oct. 11-18 are Sister Rose Ann Schlitt (Adrian, Mich.), Sister Catherine Waters (Caldwell, N.J.), and Gloria Escalona, a lay Dominican woman from Oakland, Calif. The decision to postpone the trip was made by the Iraq Coordinating Committee (ICC) after hearing from the sisters in Iraq that it was not feasible to travel to or within the country at this time. The ICC is a committee of the North American Dominican Justice Promoters.

The cancelled delegation was to have been the fifth sponsored by U.S. Dominicans. Sister Beth Murphy has visited the Iraqi Dominican family on four occasions, the last time in 2010. Sister Marcelline went in 2015.

The bond between members of the Order of Preachers in the U.S. and Iraq began when Sister Margaret Galiardi, OP (Amityville) heard a report about the impact of draconian UN sanctions imposed on Iraq before the First Gulf War in 1990. “One of the sisters told [then-Master of the Order] Timothy Radcliff ‘Sanctions make us feel that we have been forgotten even by God,’” Sister Margaret recalled. “It was Christmas, the time to celebrate the ‘the Word-made-flesh’ in the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.” Sister Margaret remembers coming to the realization “We have to go there in the flesh and by our presence say ‘God does not forget anyone.’”

The Dominican Justice Promoters represent the sisters, friars, and lay of the Dominican Family in the U.S. Funds for the delegation have been contributed by Dominican Sisters, Friars, and Laity throughout the U.S.

by Sister Beth Murphy, OP

The Blessing of the Office of the General Postulation of the Order

The 11th of September 2017 will be a date that will undoubtedly be remembered in the annals of the Convent of Santa Sabina, the seat of the Master of the Order of Preachers and of the General Curia.

In fact, after two years of intense and delicate work of restructuring and restoration of the so-called wing, "Pio V - card. Bernerio", the whole community with the Master of the Order, visited the premises and offices located in the corridor on the ground floor (one adjacent to the medieval cloister) for the rite of the blessing of the renewed General Postulation.

These are three rooms in which - starting from the large balcony from which you can admire a splendid panorama of Rome and of the Tiber below - are housed respectively the headquarters of the Postulator General, the Library and the office of the Secretary in which the current archive is kept.

After a brief presentation made by fr Gianni Festa, the current Postulator General, the fr. Bruno Cadoré, expressed his greetings and thanked fr Festa and the Secretary of the General Postulation, fr. Llewellyn Muscat, for the commitment and dedication that has been put into the reorganization of the Postulation.

To date our Order are entrusted to the Postulation about 110 causes for sainthood, part of which are from the Dominican Family and other religious institutes, dioceses, institutions, etc. Not all, of course, are still "viable" or at least still being processed. Those currently being followed and monitored are around thirty.
We want to remember, among the many, the cause of: Jean-Joseph Lataste, Marie-Joseph Lagrange, Giorgio La Pira, Frank Duff, Eleonora of Santa Maria Ocampo, José Cueto, Julienne of the Rosary, Elisabeth Bergeron, Luis de Granada, Margherita of the city of Castello, Elisabette Lesueur, Teresa Ortega Pardo, Marie Poussepin, Juan Gonzales Arintero, Bartolomeo de Las Casas, Agostino Kazotic, Osanna of Kotor, etc.
The General Postulation

Celebration of the International Day of Peace at Lahore, Pakistan

A significant initiative of building bridges of trust and love among religions at Peace Center Lahore

The United Religions Initiative (URI) Pakistan and Peace Center in Lahore organized a grand celebration of International Day of Peace on 21st of September, 2017. A very impressive and significant crowd of more than 150 Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh religious leaders, human rights activists, promoters on interfaith harmony, scholars, professors, students from various universities and colleges as well as youth and women from different walks of life participated in this grand event. All came together under one roof to express their utmost wish to promote peace in Pakistan and around the globe. It was a very significant expression of interreligious dialogue and of building bridges of trust and love among religions and nations.

The theme was the same as announced by the UN “Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All.” His Grace, Most Rev. Sebastian Shaw, Archbishop of Lahore Presided over, whereas, Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, Grand Imam of Badshahi Mosque, Lahore was the Chief Guest. The Guests of Honor included: Fr. Pascal Paulus OP, Fr. Nadeem Francis OFM Cap, Dr. Munawar Chand (Hindu), Sardar Janam Singh (Sikh), Allama Muhammad Zubair Abid, Dr. Kanwal Feroze, Mrs. Shabnam Nagi, Chaudhary Zubair Ahmad Farooq, Fr. Inayat Bernard, Dr. Sadia Omer, the Rev. Shahid Mehraj and Allama Mufti Ashiq Hussain.

The program started with planting of an Olive tree in the lawn of Peace Center by the Archbishop Sebastian Shaw, Mufti Ashiq Hussain, Sardar Janam Singh and other participants. The plant was donated by Fr. Nadeem Francis as a symbol of peace among religions and cultures. This followed releasing of bunch of balloons and pigeons as symbol peace in the world. Prayers were offered by representatives of Christianity, Islam, Hindu and Sikh religions.

Fr. James Channan OP welcomed all the guests. He gave brief history of the International Day of Peace and explained theme of this year; “Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All”. He expressed his gratitude to the Secretary-General of the UN, Mr. Antonio Guterres and his video message at this event. He said that today we will put special emphasis on the sufferings of Muslims of Rohingya and offer solidarity with them. We also pray that there should never be a nuclear war. He also highly admired the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons adopted by 122 countries in the UN on 7th of July, 2017. To declare nuclear weapons is a good news and message of life for the world. He further said all kind of arms, especially nuclear bombs bring destruction in the world and such kind of war is condemned. Our religions teach peace and each one of us must work for peace and put Golden Rule into practice that “Do unto Others what you would like them to do unto you.” (Matt. 7.12)

The video message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr. Antonio Guterres, on IDP was presented on multi-media. He said; “On the International Day of Peace we reflect the cruel price of war, ruined schools, bombed hospitals, broken families, refugees searching for hope, countries in crises. The United Nations was born from terrible world war; our mission is to work for peace - every day and everywhere. No group interest, National ambition and political differences should be allowed to put peace at risk. On this International Day we call for global ceasefire, we must never-ever stop pressing for an end to armed conflict. Peace is the right and desire of all people.” Sr. Sabina read the Urdu translation of this message. She also recited a poem on peace and harmony.
Miss Asmara Daud and Faisal Ilyas presented video presentation on the sufferings of Muslims of Rohingya. All expressed their grave concern for the persecutions of Muslims of Ruhingya and asked the government of Myanmar to solve their sufferings of priority basis. Appeal was also made to the Secretary-General of the UN to get these crises solved soon.

During this very prestigious ceremony, Mr. Asher Nazir made announcement about the “African Interfaith Harmony Award of the Year” given by the URI Africa to Fr James Channan and Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad in recognition of their remarkable and impressive work in bringing healing and reconciliation among people of all religions, especially Muslims and Christians. Fr James Channan received this award by Ambassador Dr. Mussie Hailu in Sarajevo, Bosnia on 15th of September. His Grace, Sebastian Shaw, Archbishop of Lahore presented this international award to Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad. It was a moment of great jubilation for the entire gathering. Both Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad and Fr James Channan accepted this award with great joy and thanked URI Africa and especially Ambassador Dr. Mussie Hailu for declaring them the winners of this international Golden Rule Peace Award.

His Excellency Archbishop Sebastian Shaw, congratulated for the wonderful celebrations and the meaningful speeches of the honorable guests. He said today we are very happy to celebrate the IDP. He said peace is a state which of mind which urges us for love and mercy towards other. It also helps us to see the mercy of God. He is always merciful and loving. God wants that we must also show mercy towards others, so that there is peace around the globe. He congratulated by Fr. James Channan and Maulana Azad for receiving international award from Africa. He strongly condemned the genocide of Burma Muslims and wished to have peace over there. He appreciated the video presentation on the sufferings of Muslims in Rohingya and prayed for the world peace and end of violence against humanity.

Maulana Abdual Khabir Azad said I am feel very honored and immensely excited for receiving “African Interfaith Harmony Award of the Year”. I thank the URI Africa for choosing me and Fr James Channan for this prestigious award. After that he expressed his deep sadness over the situation of Muslims in Myanmar. He said it is very shocking and disturbing to know the situation of Myanmar. Their government is persecuting and killing Muslims and chasing them out of Myanmar. I appeal to the UN to take note of this and provide relief to Muslims. Today is the Peace Day and I pray to Almighty Allah for peace in the world and especially in Myanmar.

Fr. Pascal Paulus OP- Prior vice Provincial, Dominican Order Pakistan said I am very happy to see you all in this Peace Center for the celebration of International Day of Peace. He congratulated the organizers. He said that let us be channels of peace and remain cool like diamonds. Let us be the heralds of the good news. Rev. Fr Francis Nadeem OFM Cap also highly appreciated the program. He laid grate stress on the more affective role of the UN in establish lasting peace. Allama Muhamamd Moeed and Rev. Shahid Mehraj also spoke at the occasion.

Dr. Munawar Chand, a Hindu leader, admired the celebration of this IDP and congratulate Fr. James Channan and his team to organize this beautiful program. He said Hindu religion teaches love for all and peace among all. A prominent Sikh leader Sardar Jaman Singh congratulated all at the celebration of IDP. He said that it is very important to overcome 4 things which bring disunity and intolerance among us and those are; complains, comparing, miscalculating and criticism. If we overcome all these vices we can make this world heaven on earth. For that we must start peace from our homes.”

Allama Mohammad Zubair Abid, Chairman, Peace and Harmony Network Pakistan congratulated fr James Channan and his team URI and Peace Center for organizing this marvelous celebration of IDP. He said Pakistan is our country and need to promote peace and harmony in our country and the world over. For that we must come out of our prejudices against the other and we must be always ready to serve and respect others. He said we are with our Muslim community in Rohingya.

Mr. Zahid Anwar, a Christian poet, recited a very moving poem which he had written to pay tribute to Fr. James Channan OP for his marvelous contributions toward promoting peace and harmony among people of all religions, especially Christians and Muslims. Zahid also highlighted his remarkable services and recognitions at levels and forums. He is the pride of the nation and God bless has blessed him abundantly and his mother
Khursheed Channan has played a great role in his formation and making him a herald of peace. All enjoyed his poetry very much. Mr. Jarwaiz and Dominican students presented beautiful peace songs with their melodious voices. Furthermore Cake Cutting Ceremony for the celebration of Peace Day was carried out by the honorable guests and this created great charm to the celebrations. All guests shared cake and were delighted as well. Dominican brothers sung a moving peace song and everyone waved flags of various countries and wished peace, safety and dignity for all. This very impressive and colorful program ended with prayers for the world. Special word of thanks was extended to the hardworking team of URI and Peace Center; Fr. James Channan OP, Sr. Sabina Rifat, Asher Nazir, Ms. Asmara Daud, Faisal Ilyas and Ms. Neelam Nisari.

Fr. James Channan OP
URI Regional Coordinator Pakistan
Director Peace Center Lahore

Side event on the Artificial Intelligence, Justice and Human Rights

Algorithms are increasingly cited as one of the fundamental shaping devices of our daily existence. While the widespread use of algorithms today is making everyone’s life easier, their progressive use for automated reasoning in various sectors, such as in businesses and in the administration of justice, raises more and more questions. As artificial intelligence is slowly but surely becoming a reality, its increasing complexity concerns many of us. The 20th of September 2017, a side event on the use of artificial intelligence and its impacts on justice and human rights took place in the Palais des Nations. The 36th session of the Human Rights Council was the occasion to bring such debate inside the UN circles, as it is a central issue for the future of justice and human rights.

The co-organizers of the event, OPTIC and Dominicans for Justice and Peace, and the co-sponsors, the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See, the Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Caritas in Veritate Foundation, hoped to bring an ethical approach to the debate and to provide reflections on the implications of the use of artificial intelligence in the field of justice, especially the criminal one, and on human rights.

The event, moderated by R.P. Eric Salobir, President of OPTIC, was introduced by two high profile panellists: H.E. Archbishop Ivan Jurkovic (Permanent Observer of the Holy See Mission in Geneva) and H.E. Ambassador Peter C. Matt (Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein in Geneva). The two Ambassadors opened the event with some fundamental questions that one need to ask when confronted with the debate on artificial intelligence. H.E. Archbishop Jurkovic raised the question as to what shall be the consequences of artificial intelligence on our life and society, recognizing that we are ‘in a way […] continuously being generated to human life by other human beings who by treating us as equals, make of us what we are.’ Having in mind that artificial intelligence is defined as the capability of a machine to imitate intelligent human behavior, H.E. Ambassador Matt asked what kind of behavior we want to teach machines. This question is highly relevant, considering the danger of algorithmic discrimination.

The event was then followed by the interventions of a highly qualified panel: Prof. Pierre Vandergheynst (Full Professor at Signal Processing Laboratory, EPFL), Prof. Louis Assier Andrieu (Professor at the Law School, SciencesPo Paris) and Prof. Lorna McGregor (Professor and Director of the Human Rights Centre, University of Essex). For Prof. Vandergheynst, to understand new algorithms is not a problem, as they are quite simple to explain mathematically. What is not simple is to understand what pattern they are selecting, what the algorithm is measuring precisely. Artificial intelligence needs to be interpretable and this represents a major challenge today. Then, Prof. Andrieu shared his views about the use of artificial intelligence in the justice system and its potential fundamental changes. He referred to the president of the Parisian court of appeal, saying that a judgment doesn’t need to be just, but rather trusted. All societies are based on trust – where is the trust in the algorithm? Where is the element of communality? In the future can we trust the algorithm to decide something as important as human justice? We also observe a shift to a more predictive justice that work on correlation rather than causality. The anthropological consequences are important. Finally, Prof. McGregor noted that it is crucial to understand our environment and to understand human rights implications, whether
they are positive or negative. For example, people recognize that, in terms of the Millennium Development Goals, the digitization can effectively improve access to justice. However, artificial intelligence represents clear risks for the right to non-discrimination, the right to privacy, the freedom of expression and of association, etc. It will be therefore crucial to ensure that there will be oversight mechanisms as well as proper remedies.

The event intended to raise awareness of the various stakeholders present in the room on the different implications of the use of this new technology. The organizers hope that this event will be an incentive for further discussions and reflections on the issue at the United Nations.

The New Council for European Dominican Lay Fraternities

The 10th Assembly gathered together in Fatima has elected a new council. The members for the next four years are Maro Botica, Felix Hoffmann, Damien McDonnell, Ludovic Namurois, Vilija Šemetienė. As European member of the International Council (from 2019) the delegates elected Gabriel Silva. Maro Botica (34) is married, is a finally professed Lay Dominican from the Province of Hispania, and the Fraternity of El Olivar in Madrid, together with his Spanish wife. Their first child will be born in December. He comes from Croatia – Dalmatia, from a small island Korcula (where Marco Polo was born), but has been living in Spain for more than ten years. He has a degree in Moral Theology and a Master in Bioethics. At present he teaches religion in a high school and he is working towards a doctorate in History. He is also a member of the youth group in the Dominican parish of El Olivar in Madrid.

Damien McDonnell (54) is married, with three grown-up children, and lives in Carlow. He has a financial background and works in the Irish Civil Service. He studied Foreign Trade – Business Law, has studied Divinity and New Evangelisation and is a qualified catechist. Damien is President of the Lay Dominican Chapter in the Black Abbey, Kilkenny and is Irish Provincial treasurer. Formation and the New Evangelisation are areas of particular interest.

Felix Hoffmann (31) is single, and is a pastoral worker near Leipzig. He likes to talk and work with people of all ages, but especially with young people. He has no role in his Fraternity because the Fraternity is 600 km away. He believes that the exchange among the Provinces is an opportunity to become more and more a family and to improve our preaching of the gospel.

Ludovic Namurois (51) is married with three children; he is a former banker, responsible for the accounting of a college, President of the Vice-Province of Belgium, where he works with some Brothers in a Dominican pub. He also accompanies a new Fraternity created in the prison of Ittre. This manages to connect people and he therefore finds communication very important.

Vilija Šemetienė (55), an economist-mathematician, was married, has three grown-up children, and lives in Vilnius. She is responsible for formation in her Province and is treasurer of the Fraternity in Lithuania. Being Dominican for her means testifying to God’s closeness, encouraging people to build a Christian life in a technology-driven world.

The future European representative on the International Council (ICLDF) is Gabriel Silva. Gabriel (52) is married and has two children. He was a journalist for many years and now works in restaurants. He has had several functions in his Fraternity and is a former President of the ECLDF.

The present representative for the ICLDF until 2019 is Klaus Bornewasser. Klaus (66) is married and has two children. He was a teacher and headmaster of the school, but is retired now. For years he was the president of his fraternity.
The 10th Assembly of the European Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities (ECLDF) took place from 4-8 October 2017. The central theme was ‘Preachers of Hope’. The next Assembly will be in 2021.

The Blessing and Opening of Dominican Contemplative Nuns Monastery in Kabwe, Zambia

After the celebration of the feast of our father Saint Dominic, on August 8, 2017, with his 86th successor as Master of the Order of Preachers, fr. Bruno Cadoré, OP., on his first visit to Zambia, the Dominican Contemplative Nuns of Kabwe in Zambia have experienced another great event. On 28 August 2017, the feast of St. Augustine, they celebrated with joy and thanksgiving the blessing and opening of their new Divine Mercy Monastery. The ceremony took place during the Mass presided by His Lordship Clement Mulenga, SDB, Bishop of the Diocese of Kabwe, in the presence of His Lordship Jan De Grouf, M. of Afr., Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem, in Africa; diocese from which the sisters came from to Zambia, four years ago. Sister Joyce Rita shares the joy of this celebration.

Among the many who came to join us for this occasion were priests and religious women and men, and Laity. Five nuns from the founding monastery of Corpus Christy in Nairobi, Kenya came accompanied by Mr. and Mrs Martin Koigu, an Anglican couple and friends of the nuns. Their words to the people were truly inspiring when the opportunity came to greet them. The choir, the liturgical dancers, and altar boys came from our St. Charles Lwanga Parish.

During his homily Bishop Clement Mulenga centred his message on love because love is equated with God. He called upon us all to love the people we live with and encounter in the spirit St. John is speaking of in his letter we had just read, agape love that has no conditions. He brought to our attention the respect we receive from the people as bishops, priests, consecrated people. This should constantly remind us that we are sent among God`s people for service and not to take advantage. The bishop concluded by bringing to our attention that one knows that dawn is here not when we can differentiate objects but when can see a brother/sister in the face of another.

After communion, the two bishops accompanied by the nuns went to bless the building and its surroundings after which the Blessed Sacrament was reserved for the first time. As bishop Jan de Grouf had to catch the plane that evening, he left but not before thanking God for having made it possible to be here for the occasion and giving a strong reminder to the nuns to keep their promise made at the time of leaving South Africa, always to pray for him and the whole diocese of Bethlehem.

Sister Joyce Gabriel, the Vicaress of the prioress of the founding monastery in Kenya gave a word of gratitude to, bishop Clement Mulenga, priests, religious and all the people of God, benefactors in and outside the Order of Preachers, for their support since our arrival in Zambia in numberless ways. While sister was speaking, a telephone at the reception announced that the Poor Clare Nuns are stuck in town coming for the celebration. A sister rushed to town and brought back three nuns who had begun the journey from Lusaka to come and show their solidarity with us. It was beyond expectation. They missed the Ceremony but the joy of their presence in our monastery was boundless. That truly sealed God`s overwhelming blessings for the days beyond the Blessing Day.

Before moving to Zambia, we were originally in Senekal in South Africa. Rev. Bishop Clement Mulenga, SDB, who welcomed us in his diocese saw our coming as direct quick answer from God for his prayer for contemplative nuns to come into his diocese which was only two years old, and himself as Bishop, at the time of our arrival in August 2013. Since then, we were living in a rented house which did not have a monastic set up. Finally God has accomplished the desire through the generosity of the diocese of Kabwe, benefactors within and outside the Order. 

Sr. Joyce Rita, op.
Timothy Radcliffe on Hope from Dominican brothers and sisters in the Arab world

On the second day of the European Assembly of Lay Dominican Fraternities Fr. Timothy Radcliffe o.p. talked about how our brothers and sisters in the Arab world teach us to hope.

‘In the ’60s of the previous century we had the feeling that we would change the world and that it would be a better place. But now, fifty years later, we are not so sure about that. We see enormous flows of migrations, war and terrorist attacks and a big financial crisis. Many young people cannot find a job and we are facing ecological catastrophe. How do we keep on hoping? And how do we transmit that hope to the young and how do the young give hope to us?’ Br Timothy has experienced that you can learn this in desperate places, where there is no hope any longer: ‘And yet if we go to those places, we can sometimes hear words of hope and tenderness.’

Timothy is full of stories of the people he meets during his travels around the world and he shared them with the Assembly. ‘You should think that rich people can help the poor and homeless people, but if you ask in a devastated area: “what do you need?” the persons in this neighborhood can always think of somebody who is in more need’. In this area Timothy met tenderness, humanity and hope.

He recently visited several countries In the Middle East. He loves to go there because the brothers and sisters who are living there, are teaching him hope. And Timothy tells the story that he was in Iraq for a fraternal visit in 1988 and on the radio he heard that there would be a bombing. That day he had breakfast with Archbishop Yousif Thomas Mirkis OP and he asked him: ‘Are you not afraid?’ And Mirkis said: ‘Of course, but if you live with death every day, you live with the bigger question: will there be a resurrection?’ Not too long ago there was a survey among the youngest generation in Britain and it asked: what are your biggest concerns? The answer was: Britain might run out of prosecco and I might forget my password. ‘But when you go into the desert, these small anxieties of life are relative. Then you have other questions’ Timothy tells us.

In Arabic there are two words for hope: ‘amal, this is hope in the sense of optimism and raja’, this is hope in the Lord. Timothy detects in Iraq the ‘amal is lost: the sisters and brothers are not optimistic about the future of Christianity in the middle east. But they have raja’ and that keeps them alive. ‘How do they keep their hope alive?’ Timothy wonders. First of all by prayer and by the Eucharist. ‘You should do that once: celebrate the Eucharist in a war zone: you will see clearly the meaning of the last supper. In the Eucharist hope shines out brightly. It is in these kinds of context of darkness and disaster, where everything is collapsing and where is no future, that Jesus gave us this sign of hope! The people in countries like Iraq and Syria know in a way what the Eucharist is, what we have forgotten’, Timothy tells to the Assembly.

‘Second: by singing; this is a manner of facing hope. Human beings sing! It is one of the ways we express our hope everywhere in the world. Music breaks down the barriers between people and the finality of death. Music and singing express the words of the hope for which we have no words, the hope that is beyond our articulation. Not only for Christians but for all people. It happens in ordinary life and it happens when terrible things happen, just think about that young man who took his piano to play in the square after the attack in the Bataclan, Paris’, he remembered.

Thirdly, Timothy discovered that we keep hope alive by staying. In Baghdad Timothy met Lay Dominicans who stayed in Baghdad despite the violence and the war. Just like Jesus, who said that He will be with us until the end of time (Matt. 28:20). Staying faithfully by people even when it becomes very difficult. ‘For whom must you stay? is the question that is rising. It can be for your loved ones, for the people in the parish or fraternity. But in the end you stay, because God remains with us. We stay not just as a physical presence, but because we are God’s face for others, and to see the face of God. We have to learn to read the faces of other people – even if they want to kill us – until we see the face of God’, Timothy teaches the participants in the Assembly.

And finally, hope is kept alive by doing the good things that have to be done that day: ‘by doing the good work that God prepared for us. Do what is coming on your path, what is given you to do. If it matters or if it makes
a difference is not for you to decide, but for God. Doing good reminds us that we are human beings. So we hang on, doing the things we can do, learning that the fruit is in God’s hands. We don’t build the Kingdom of God, but we receive it and have to accept as a gift. And we have to teach ourselves and others to think. We want to think, because we believe that things make sense in the Lord, that ultimately everything that is happening is in the hands of God and therefore it is valuable. In the end we will see and understand that everything we lived through has a meaning.’

Timothy calls the Assembly to give hope to the young: ‘give them a reason to hope’. But the youngsters are giving us hope too. We are sometimes blind to what we do: we don’t realize what is precious and valuable, until we are in a devastated area.’ Divided by languages, the Assembly worked after the coffee break in groups. Based on the talk of Timothy they spoke with each other about the questions: What gives you hope? and: How do you think that we can give hope to the next generation.

After Mass and lunch but before we went on the outing, the President of the Council gave an additional explanation of the tractatus and the elections.

Then by bus we went to the Batalha Monastery, so we left the cool hotel and went into the hot afternoon sun for a half-hour drive. It’s beautiful to see something more of the Portuguese landscape. In Batalha we arrived at a big gothic church that recently had to be restored: it’s an amazingly beautiful building. Next to the church there is a big priory of the Dominicans, who have been here from the start in 1388. It’s a place of study for the Dominicans and it is the final resting place of King John I and his wife, who lived in the 15th century. The time was too short to see everything and quietly we finished our tour in the unfinished chapel with the sky as roof.

At the end of the day the list of nominees for the elections was made definitive and we prayed the rosary and Vespers in the chapel of the sisters.

An Encounter with Young People in the Philippines

The Filipino youth is one of the most dynamic sectors of the society. According to National Youth Commission (2017) Youth Projected Population they comprise almost 30% of the Philippine population. By mere observation, people can see that the youth today are interested in technology-based activity, going to the malls, talking with friends and a lot more.

The Queen of Angels Monastery, last September 17, 2017 open their gates to some 66 youths from Bulacan and Manila to engage with them and learn what would make the church closer to them. This meeting with the youth was initiated by the nuns in response to the Invitation of Master Rev. Fr. Bruno Cadore, O.P. to all Dominicans to engage in the preparatory dynamic of the Synod of Bishops convened by Pope Francis scheduled for Oct. 2018 with the theme: Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment.

The encounter started with the singing of “Welcome to the Family” and Invocation led by our Dominican Sister, Sr. Hilary Marie, OP, Sr. Mary Lourdes, OP, Prioress of the monastery welcomes the young people to the activity while Sr. Mary Emmanuelle, OP presented the purpose of the gathering. What was fascinating and touching moment in the encounter was when the nuns of the Queen of Angels Monastery introduced themselves one by one to the participants which was responded to by the young people by doing the same. It was indeed an unforgettable moment!

Ms. Baby Bernadette M. Fernando from the National Youth Commission facilitated the program dynamics.

Games was facilitated to break the ice so that these young people will know other youth. An important part of the encounter was to know the youth’s point of view on how to make the church closer to them. Several questions were given which they willingly and admirably answered through the individual questionnaire given
to them and through the group workshop they did. Responses of the young people vary. They see that creation of activities such as dance and song gathering would make them engage more with the church. Some also responded to by identifying actual tasks that they can do during mass. While some also identified reach out programs would be an interesting activity and could spice up their interest in joining church activities. However, among the many and varied responses of the youth, the one that stands out was the use of social media. They see the use of Facebook and other social media platforms as a powerful tool in spreading the good news of the Lord and as means of engaging the young people.

The sharing and testimonies of young people through Brother Benjamin Rodil representing the International Dominican Youth Movement (IDYM) and Brother Rafael Luis Lopez from the Dominican Network Youth(DOMNET) made these young people realize that they too can engage and be active members of the church. Short film showing of the life of Blessed Pierre Giorgio Frassati and the Dominican Family give them a glimpse of how people in the Dominican order live a happy life through service to the Lord.

The youth was able to see firsthand and get a glimpse of the life of the nuns with the Rosary pilgrimage tour of the Convent.

The perfect day ended with the perfect celebration of the Holy Mass with Rev. Fr. Ivan Obando, OP.

Indeed, the day was filled with various activity that made the Encounter with the Young People an event to remember.

Dominican Nuns - Bocaue, Philippines

**Sr. Albert Marie Surmanski, OP’s translation of Albert the Great’s On the Body of Our Lord**

AMU Graduate Theology is happy to announce that alumna and former faculty member, Sr. Albert Marie Surmanski, OP, has had her translation of Albert the Great’s On the Body of Our Lord recently published and is now available.

According to Sr. Albert Marie’s notes,

Albert the Great wrote On the Body of the Lord in the 1270s, making it his final work of sacramental theology. A companion volume to his commentary on the Mass, On the Body of the Lord is a comprehensive discussion of Eucharistic theology. The treatise is structured around six names for the Eucharist taken from the Mass: grace, gift, food, communion, sacrifice, and sacrament. It emerges from the liturgy and is intended to draw the reader back to worship.

The overall movement of the treatise follows the order of God’s wisdom. Albert begins by discussing the Eucharist as a gift flowing from the goodness of the Trinity. He touches on its relation to redemption and the Church, including a rigorous Aristotelian analysis of Eucharistic change and presence before ending with a discussion of Mass rubrics. The most significant theological emphasis is on the Eucharist as food given to feed the people of God.

The style varies to suit the content: certain sections are terse; others are devotional, allowing the reader to enter the saint’s own prayer. Perhaps most characteristically Albertine is an extended meditation that compares the process of digestion to the incorporation of the Christian into the Body of Christ. The mixed style allows this work to integrate rigorous aspects of scholastic thought with a fervent love for God, making On the Body of the Lord one of Albert’s most human as well as one of his most beautiful works.

On the Body of the Lord was well received, particularly in areas that came to be influenced by the devotio moderna. By 1484, three separate Latin editions had been printed, two of which were the inaugural works on new presses. In the following century the Protestant Reformation brought an end to its popularity. On the Body of the Lord is here translated into English for the first time.
Pope Francis prays for the Order at the tomb of St Dominic in Bologna

Visiting our Basilica in Bologna, Pope Francis prayed before the tomb of our founder St Dominic. After praying, he left us a message.

Here is the content.

Before the tomb of Saint Domenic, I prayed for the Order of Preachers. I asked for its members the grace of fidelity to the heritage received. I thanked the Saint for all the good that his children do in the Church and I asked as a gift of a considerable increase of vocations.

Dear Dominicans: May Jesus bless you and the Holy Virgin take care of you. And please, do not forget to pray for me.

Fraternally

Francis
1 – X – 2017

By praying for us Dominicans, the pontiff has inscribed in his words a distinctive teaching:
- The Order is an edifice of Grace and, like all things created from Grace, they don’t get built by the physical act of construction but by prayer.
- Therefore, the attitude of the preacher is not that of one who must invent something new, but that of fidelity. Christianity and even the Order, could be defined as that which is new from the past. A past that is always present. It is the world that is old because it went ahead. Preaching therefore means bringing man back to that novelty.
- Finally, what characterizes the Order is the unity of the end, which is, the salvation of souls. The example of this unity in the Catholic Church is aptly expressed in the Primacy of Peter: the unity of faith with begins with praying for the Pope, even together with other denominations.

How Pleasant and Good it is when Sisters Gather in Unity!

It was a beautiful sight to behold when Dominican sisters from Europe gathered on September 22-25, 2017 at Katarinahjemmet, Oslo, Norway. Structured through communal prayers, meals, studies and recreation, the week-end gathering was filled with an atmosphere of peace, gladness, openness, respectful listening, and positive warm regard. It was truly a powerful witness to the joy of being Dominicans!

Spearheaded and organized by Sr. Else-Britt Nilsen OP, coordinator for Dominican Sisters Europe (DSE) and in collaboration with the Dominican Sisters International (DSI), the meeting was intended to explore possible ways of future collaboration among small congregations in Europe for the continuation of Dominican Life and Mission.

The group was comprised of the general prioresses and younger sisters of participating congregations from Austria, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Slovakia and Sweden.

The meeting started with Vespers followed by the keynote speech of Sr. Hedvig Deák OP. Through her talk on “Dominican Religious Life in Europe and the Anthropological Challenge”, Sr. Hedvig guided the sisters to reflect deeply on the beauty and meaning of Religious vocation amidst the many challenges besetting contemporary Europe especially that of secularization and the crises of organized religion and of religious life.

Invited in the gathering were three sisters from the Dominican Sisters of Peace, United States of America. Sr. Patricia Twohill OP, the general prioress, together with Sr. Anna and Bea told their congregation’s story: “Becoming Peace!” They narrated the experience of the coming together of eight congregations and shared
some of the fruits of this union. Sr. Janine Bernard OP from Gramont, France also gave a testimony on how her congregation went through the process of fusion with the Roman Congregation of St. Dominic (CRSD). Sr. Marie Therese Clement OP, coordinator for Dominican Sisters International presented collaboration from a global perspective.

Small group discussions ensued after the presentations. Fr. Jean-Claude Lavigne, the moderator of the group, gave inputs and questions for reflection and sharing. The fruits of the sharing were then shared in the plenum. Establishing deeper ties by visiting and getting to know one another, networking, common study weeks with focus on liturgy and our common heritage, pilgrimages, leadership meetings were some forms of collaboration which the group hopes to engage in the future.

The first necessary step towards fostering future collaboration for the continuation of Dominican Life and Mission in Europe has been taken! Everyone went home with a renewed hope for the future!

Special thanks to the Dominican Sisters Notre Dame de Grace for hosting the meeting, to the brothers of St. Dominic in Oslo for the use of their conference hall and to Sr. Marie Laetitia OP for her gift of language.

**Official News**

**Meeting of the Order’s Commission for the Vocation of the Cooperator Brother**

The first meeting of the new commission appointed by the Master of the Order met at Santa Sabina in the early days of October 2017. It has eight members, Miguel Angel Espinoza Sanchez of Holy Rosary province, Tomasz Gaj of Poland, Fabien-Joseph Hignette of Toulouse, Daniel-Mario Ibezim of Nigeria, Herman Johnson of St Martin de Porres USA, Joseph Mai Van Tuyen of Vietnam, Mariusz Skowronski of Poland and Vivian Boland, socius of the Master for fraternal life and formation. Ignatius Perkins of St Joseph USA and Roberto Clark of Argentina, members of the former commission which produced the Cooperator Brothers Study in 2013, also attended this first meeting.

The Master of the Order participated in two sessions of the meeting. Other contributors were Augustine Thompson of Holy Name USA who has just completed a book-length history of the Dominican brothers, Gianni Festa, the postulator general, who spoke about the holiness of the co-operator brother in the Order, and Benjamin Earl, the procurator general, advising the commission regarding a text for LCO which the general chapter of Bologna has asked for.

Brother Bruno traced the history of reflection on the co-operator brother’s vocation from the general chapter of Rome in 2010. A lot has been achieved, not least a raised consciousness in the Order about the importance of this vocation. The brothers carry for the Order the aspect of fraternity which is essential to the Dominican vocation. Augustine Thompson’s book shows how, again and again in the course of our history, the brothers have called the Order back to its fundamental mission of evangelizing, of preaching the fraternity of the gospel from the base of a fraternal life consecrated to the Word of God.

The commission studied the new Ratio Formationis Generalis and the new Ratio Studiorum Generalis to see what those documents have to say about the promotion of the brother’s vocation and the formation of co-operator brothers. The commission stressed also the need for good communication with the provinces in
collaboration with the regional socii, considering ways in which the work of the commission can be represented at provincial and regional meetings of the Order.

The commission chose brother Herman Johnson to be its president and agreed that it would meet twice again before the general chapter, in June 2018 and in February 2019.

The lives and achievements of many remarkable brothers were recalled in the course of the meeting. It is appropriate on the feast of Saint Martin de Porres (even if he was not a co-operator brother in the strict sense) that we should thank God for the witness of many saintly men who have lived this vocation in the Order. It is right also to pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to inspire men to serve the Church and the ‘holy preaching’ in this way. The brothers remind us that we are, in the first place, brothers, following ‘brother Dominic’ in our consecration to the Word of God, sharing a common life centred on that Word, and preaching the same Word in many and various ways.

Vivian Boland OP
Socius for Fraternal Life and Formation

The International Commission of Dominican Nuns meets at Bologna

From 19 to 26 October 2017, the International Commission of Dominican Nuns met at Idice in Bologna in the company of fr César Valero Bajo, the General Promoter of the Nuns. The meeting took place at the House of Spirituality of the Dominican Sisters of Blessed Imelda.

There were 11 sisters representing all the regions of the world where there are Dominican monasteries. The sisters shared reports from their different regions, their challenges, achievements and dreams. The sisters were greatly assisted by fr Mario Javares who accompanied them as translator.

On the 21st of October, the sisters received fr Bruno Cadoré, the Master of the Order who encouraged them to continue to grow in bonds of communion, in the ever deeper knowledge of their identity as contemplative Dominicans and in the preaching mission of the Order so that their monasteries may be a true parable of communion.

The Province of St. Augustine in West Africa has been formally erected

“PERLECTA petitione Prioris Vice Provincialis cum Consilio Provinciae die VI mensis Julii a.D. MMXVII admota, necnon re mature perpensa deque Consilii Generalitii consensu ad normam LCO 256, die XIII mensis Septembris a.D. MMXVII habitus, FORMALITER ERIGIMUS NOVAM PROVINCIAM ORDINIS IN AFRICA OCCIDENTALI hisce clausulis: TITULUS: Provincia appellanda est PROVINCIA “S AUGUSTINI” IN AFRICA OCCIDENTALI…”

It is by this decree signed on October 7, 2017, on the feast of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary that the Master of the Order of Preachers, Brother Bruno Cadoré, in accordance with LCO 256, formally erected the new Province of St Augustine in West Africa. Indeed, the Master of the Order has responded positively to the formal request of the Vice-Provincial Council of the Vice Province-Saint Augustine dated July 6, 2017, and accepted by the General Council in September 2017. Thus, the Province of St. Augustine in West Africa becomes the second Dominican province in Africa, after the province of Saint Joseph the Worker of Nigeria and Ghana.
The first Prior Provincial of the new province is Brother Benjamin Sombel SARR. Brothers Clément ABOUNDJINOU, Antoine Augustin MISSODE, Georges ALAHOU and Paul Dago N’DJEMEHISSA are diffinitors and councillors; Brothers Pierre-Paul MISSEHOUNGBE and Joachim SOME are the substitute provincial councillors. Brother Brice BINI is the socius of the provincial and the regent of studies. The first provincial chapter will take place in 2019 after the general chapter. A diffinitor must therefore be appointed to accompany the prior provincial to the next elective general chapter of 2019.

Located in the Francophone zone of West Africa, the entity that will later become the Province of Saint Augustine, was founded by the former province of Lyon, France. On its erection as a Province, the youngest province in the Order has 81 brothers, among whom 47 priests, 1 deacon, 30 brothers in initial formation and 3 Novices. The current Archbishop of Cotonou, in Benin Republic, His Grace Roger Houngbedji, OP, is also a son of the new province. The average age of the brothers is 42 years (2 brothers are over 80 years, 6 are between 60 and 70 years, about 10 are in their fifties, 5 are in their forties, about 60 are between 24 and 39 years).


The Master of the Order will conduct the canonical visit of the new province - the second visit of his mandate, from January 29 to February 7, 2018.

The Inter-Africa (IAOP) congratulates our brothers of the new Province of St. Augustine in West Africa, assures them with its collaboration and our prayers.

Which would be the third province of the Order in Africa or the next Vice-Province?
fr. Gabriel Samba, op.

**Meeting of the International Dominican Commission for Justice and Peace (2017)**

The International Dominican Commission for Justice & Peace (IDCJP) met in Geneva and Estavayer-le-Lac in Switzerland September 28 - October 3. In the past three years, the Commission has been meeting annually to animate the work of justice and peace. This was the first meeting of the Commission to include the full complement of representatives of the Dominican Family. General Promoter and UN Delegate Mike Deeb and the outgoing DSI International Promoter Celestina Veloso Freitas planned and hosted the meeting. Other members included the friar and sister Promoters of Justice and Peace of the five world regions, the DLC/DSI representative to the UN-New York, the DSI International Coordinator, the Socius for Apostolic Life, and representatives of the Nuns, Laity, and the International Dominican Youth Movement.

The gathering began at the United Nations in Geneva where members received formation about, and attended sessions of the Human Rights Council for two days. They heard discussion on resolutions regarding human rights violations in various countries, the conflicts in Burundi and Syria, the death penalty and the rights of women. While the discussions were rich, the members witnessed how national interests often override the common good.
The group traveled to the Dominican Monastery at Estavayer-le-Lac http://www.moniales-op.ch/monastere-dominicain for the remainder of their time together. They focused on strengthening the work of the Commission and developing plans for collaboration and promotion of the justice and peace agenda, both internationally and regionally.

Members shared reports from their realities; from these and the UN experiences, they named global challenges. From these challenges, they moved to lift up priorities, look at barriers or threats embodied in challenges, what means we have to address issues, and what actions are needed and attainable.

Each region and group developed their own plan of action for the coming year. This included actions around animation, solidarity, communication, formation, and networking. Networking plans included using the Order’s “Atrium” platform which allows for persons to participate in Mission Forums, a way of preaching to promote the mission in various areas of ministry.

A common focus internationally is to promote the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. The care of and advocacy for refugees and migrants and the struggle against human trafficking is another priority. In line with the Salamanca Process, there is a need for study and research on the issues such as “an ethic of life” and “the sovereignty of the state” that often legitimises impunity in the face of national injustices. An annual Dominican Month for Peace during every Advent has been instituted, and this year the whole Dominican Family is encouraged to pray especially for Colombia as it implements its Peace Accord. All were inspired by the growing interest of the Dominican youth in justice and peace especially as the 2018 Synod of Bishops on youth approaches.

A deep spirit of fellowship developed within the group through the common experience of the UN and of the 700-year-old monastery of our sisters. In all, everyone felt that the meeting had significantly strengthened their resolve and capacity to assist the Order to make justice and peace a constitutive dimension of our preaching.

Members of the International Dominican Commission for Justice and Peace:

Fr Mike Deeb - General Promoter Justice and Peace & UN Delegate  
Sr Celestina Veloso Freitas - Outgoing DSI JPIC International Promoter  
Sr Cecilia Espenilla - Incoming DSI JPIC International Promoter  
Sr Margaret Mayce - DLC/DSI Representative to the UN - New York  
Sr Marie Therese Clement - International Co-ordinator DSI  
Fr Orlando Rueda Acevedo - Socius for Apostolic Life  
Sr Pétronille Kayiba - DSA-JPIC Promoter for Africa  
Fr Emmanuel Mulu - IAOP J&P Promoter for Africa  
Sr. Maria Luz P. - Mission DSI-JPCC Promoter for Asia-Pacific  
Fr Gallardo Bombase - JPCC Promoter for Asia-Pacific Region  
Fr Xabier Gomez - J&P Promoter for Europe  
Sr Marcela Soto Ahumada - CODALC J&P Promoter for Latin America and Caribbean  
Fr Miguel Ángel Gullón Pérez - CIDALC J&P Promoter for Latin America and Caribbean  
Sr Marcelline Koch - J&P Promoter for North America  
Fr Brendan Curran - J&P Promoter for North America  
Duncan MacLaren - Representative of Lay Dominicans  
Maria Teresa Tenti - Representative of Lay Dominicans  
Sr Irene Diaz - Representative of Nuns  
Dimitri Diaz Vidal - Representative of IDYM
Calendar of the Master of the Order for November 2017

Oct 23-Nov 3: Canonical Visitation to the Province of India

6-9: Meeting of the Coordinating Council of IDYM at Santa Sabina.

8-21: Plenary Council Meeting at Santa Sabina.

15: Meeting with New Dominican Students in Rome.

25: Meeting in Bologna with Student friars of the Province of St Dominic in Italy.

All articles are available on www.op.org