The Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré has instituted a Commission for the Vocation of Cooperator Brothers in the Order. The Commission will operate until the General Chapter of 2019.

This Commission follows on from the Coordinating Committee on the Study of the Cooperator Brothers on their specific vocation in the Order (ACG Trogir 2013, 80-82; Relatio MO, I 13).

The mandate of the New Commission are as follows:
- To propose to the Master of the Order the ways and means to implement the conclusions of the study carried out by the Coordinating Committee referred to above.
- To respond to the request of the Acts of the General Chapter of Bologna: “We request that the Coordinating Committee for Implementing the Dominican Cooperators Study prepare for the next General Chapter (2019) a text defining the identity and mission of the Cooperator Brothers in the Order, and that the text is likely to be included in this chapter of the LCO as a special section” (ACG Bologna 2016, 230).
- To draw inspiration from the following exhortation made by this same General Chapter: “Taking into account the important role of Cooperator Brothers in our Order ... etc.” (ACG Bologna 2016, 129).
- To propose to the Order guidelines to promote today the vocation of the Cooperator Brothers.

The member of the Commission are:
The Socius of the Master of the Order for fraternal life and formation - fr Vivian Boland,
fr Herman Johnson (St Martin de Poress, USA),
fr Fabien Joseph Hignette (Toulouse),
fr Mariusz Skowranski (Poland),
fr Miguel Angel Espinoza Sanchez (Venezuela - Holy Rosary),
fr Mario Daniel Ibezim (Nigeria),
fr Joseph Mai van Tuyen (Vietnam),
fr Tomasz Gaj (Poland).

The commission will choose its president. The Socius of The Master of the Order for fraternal life and formation will convene the first meeting. He will invite brothers Roberto Clark and Ignatius Perkins, in order to ensure continuity with the work carried out by the previous Commission.

The first meeting of the Commission will be organized in order to define the work programme. The Commission may also propose to me to add two other brothers, chosen for their personal experience and/or their theological or historical competence.

The first meeting of the Commission will take place from 8 to 12 October 2017 at the Convent of Santa Sabina, Rome.

**The Veritas Dominican Schola in Bulgaria**

As a contribution to the Chain of Preachers of Hope Lay Dominican Bogdan-Dominic Penev tells us about the Dominican professors teaching in Bulgaria.

Bulgaria is a traditionally Orthodox country, Catholics being only about one percent of the population. The fact that orthodoxy is never influential enough on society results in three main consequences: poor general understanding of what Christianity is per se, strong dualistic notions in the thinking of the average Bulgarian and a bad image of the Catholic Church, reduced mainly to Crusades, Inquisition and sinful Popes. At the same time the average Bulgarian in her/his hunger for the truth may display extraordinary openness of mind. All this makes the presence of the Dominican Order in these lands a matter of utter necessity because it is capable of preaching the Good News, explaining it and defending it against misunderstandings by rational means. Yet, unfortunately, the Lay branch of our Order is the only Dominican entity in the country and the near future doesn’t seem very bright regarding possible Dominican mission. So, what to do?

The answer came by the end of the Jubilee year, when we had invited a famous Polish Dominican theologian to come to Bulgaria to give lectures on Thomism on the occasion of the Jubilee. It was Br. Michal Paluch OP, who was later appointed by the Master Rector of the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) and is now serving in this capacity. He was the one to take the issue seriously and came up with an idea how to make the Dominican way present without having Dominicans sur place.

Thus the Veritas Dominican Schola was established and its first course – Basics of Theology – initiated. Four times a year, a prominent Dominican theologian would come with a Saturday-long lecture session on major theological topics. The programme of the course is based on the classical university curricula of Theology, adapted and shortened, as if in a pill, for both laity to learn and clergy to refresh. So far, two sessions have taken place and quickly gained popularity in the parish, in the diocese and even among some (hopefully) future converts. The Fraternity for its part does its best to popularize the course by issuing flyers about it and spread them throughout the country, as well as advertising it on its Facebook page.

The course already has steady attenders who seem to be deeply moved by the knowledge of truth revealed to them and aspire to deepen it. The lectures are also being audio- and video-recorded and are currently being edited to be issued on the web; a written version is being prepared as well. As a whole the Schola puts an emphasis on and uses as a kind of motto the following sentences: “You will know the truth and it will set you free” (John 8:32), “In order to come to love one needs to get to know the object of one’s love” and “The truth is the accordance of the reason with reality” (St Thomas Aquinas).
During the sessions, the Fraternity also organizes a book market of mostly Dominican titles translated predominantly by its members. Recently, we translated and edited the Dialogue of St Catherine of Siena. Of note, the whole Summa Theologiae has also been translated into Bulgarian by a famous philosophy professor in Sofia and is also available to buy.

The Dominican Schola is a great way of serving Catholics in Bulgaria by offering them the good scholastic approach, helping them to strengthen their faith and to put in order their view on reality and thus become better Catholics in their everyday life. Also, this is a way of presenting the Dominican way to those who may find it attractive in their hearts and decide to follow it. At the same time it gives an opportunity to both local Church authorities and Order representatives to get to know each other, which, if God wills it, may end up in a Dominican mission in our country.

Veritas!
Bogdan-Dominic Penev OPs,
St Catherine of Alexandria LDF of Sofia, Bulgaria

The Master of the Order visits the Dominican Family in Zambia

The Master of the Order of Preachers, Fr. Bruno Cardoré, OP, accompanied by his Socius for Africa, Fr. Gabriel Samba, OP, visited Zambia, from August 6th to 8th 2017 for a fraternal visit. He was warmly welcomed at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, Lusaka by the Dominican Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with songs, dances and flowers. During his visit, the Master of the Order celebrated the Solemnity of our Father St. Dominic with the Dominican Family in Zambia, at the new monastery of the Dominican Contemplative Nuns in the diocese of Kabwe.

The joy was beyond for the Dominican Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to receiving the first visit of a Master of the Order, after 93 years of waiting since their coming to Zambia. Up in Kabwe, the Dominican Contemplative Nuns and the Friars counted the minutes. On Monday 7th August, at 4:00 am, two of them were on the road to Lusaka to welcome and bring the Master to Kabwe. By 7:00 am the Dominican Family in Zambia was sharing a special breakfast in true fraternity before leaving Lusaka via a visit to the Sisters’ Common Novitiate for Zambia, Zimbabwe and Kenya, and arrived in Kabwe for Lunch.

The Dominican Contemplative Nuns, who came to Zambia four years ago had just moved to their new Monastery ten days before and as the Master arrived, wardrobes were being removed from the vehicle. There was much left to put together in the new home. For the nuns, the dream had come true, a visit of the Master so soon in our monastery was a blessing beyond expectations as we welcomed him with great joy and appreciation. That afternoon by 16 hours, the Master was welcomed by the Rev. Clement Mulenga, SDB, Bishop of Kabwe at his new residence, and by 17 hours, the Dominican Friars who have just arrived to Zambia from Nigeria, were running over with joy as they welcomed the Master in their house. Brother Bruno had a meeting with the brothers.

Back to the monastery, after supper, it was the nuns’ turn to sit and listen to their Father. We were deeply touched by the Master’s interest in our community. He was very interested in the directions and future of the building of Dominican contemplative life in this new land the Lord had brought us. Brother Bruno very much encouraged us to persevere in the path we had undertaken. He invited us to be available to working with others on areas that enhance our preaching mission in our different ways of carrying this out as preachers.

On 8th, the sun rose as usual but for the Dominicans in Zambia, this was a very unique way as the family began to arrive early from, Lusaka, Fatima, Ndola. The sisters were accompanied by some students, and the primary school had a big surprise for all. Our Bishop Clement Mulenga presided at the Eucharistic celebration and the Master of the Order gave the homily. The novices and postulants led us with liturgical
dances where applicable. After Mass the primary school students who were no more than six to ten years surprised us with the masterpiece of Art of St. Dominic drawn by a very small student using rice. Those little ones explained the picture of the founder of the Order in a very unique way. Everyone was moved. It is within this moment that one of the children began to cry and could not take her part. The heart of the Master of the Order became open to us all as he walked over and took the little girl in his embrace to console her. It was so moving.

After our bountiful feasting and cutting of the very special cake by the Master and leaders of the three branches of the Dominican Family in Zambia, it was time to say goodbye as the Dominican Sisters on Lusaka route felt the privilege of taking the Master with them for the Airport. The sun set but our memories are still living the event. As Bishop Mulenga tol the Master, “Father Bruno, always feel welcome to Zambia and in a special place in Kabwe, even after your mandate is over.” Always WELCOME!!

Sr. Joyce Rita, op.

**From Fraternity to fraternities in the Province of the Philippines**

*From Fraternity to fraternities: The Road to Local Fraternities of Dominican Diocesan Priests in the Province of the Philippines*

For the past years, efforts have been continuously taken to reorder the Dominican diocesan priests in the Philippines. The aim was to reach a more localized level of organization in order to facilitate among the members of the Priestly Fraternities of St. Dominic a more faithful following of their Rule. Central to this project was the identification of clusters based on the territorial distribution of the members in particular churches all over the country.

In the recent months, a series of inaugural meetings was carried out in these clusters in order to constitute local chapters of the secular priests in the Province. While also providing an occasion for renewed fellowship among the members, the meetings conducted had two primary objectives: (1) election of the respective priors (presidents) and council members of each chapter, thus, ensuring the capacity of each group for self-governance; and, (2) formulation of the local directory, which would be observed for all local chapters of secular priests in the Dominican Province of the Philippines. After careful study of the *Regula Fraternitatum Sacerdotalium Sancti Dominici*, and in close coordination with and under the guidance of the Provincial Promoter, fr. Florentino Bolo Jr., OP, the members successfully completed the proposed draft of the directory, which was subsequently approved on 4 September 2017 by the Prior Provincial and his council.

On the occasion of the canonical visit of the Master of the Order, fr. Bruno Cadoré, OP, the road to local fraternities of Dominican diocesan priests in the Dominican Province of the Philippines reached its completion. With nine organized chapters-in-formation, each with its own prior and council, and with an officially approved national Directory, the canonical erection of the local chapters was carried out by the authority of the Prior Provincial, fr. Napoleon Sipalay Jr., OP, in a ceremony held on 23 September 2017, Saturday, 8:00 am, at the San Pio V Building, Santo Domingo Church compound, 537 Quezon Avenue, 1114 Quezon City. Also present during the creation of the local fraternities were fr. Michael Mascari, OP, Socius for the Intellectual Life, and fr. Vivian Boland, OP, Socius for Fraternal Life and Formation.

With the creation of the local chapters, the new designation "Priestly Fraternities of St. Dominic in the Philippines" replaces the previous title "Dominican Clerical Fraternity of the Philippines", following also the recommendation of the General Curia to observe consistency in the reference to priests rather than to clerics. The newly constituted chapters are as follows:

1. Chapter of the Most Holy Name of Jesus (Archdiocese of San Fernando, Pampanga) headed by Fr. Mario Sol Gabriel
2. Chapter of the Most Holy Rosary (Western Visayan Region) headed by Fr. Andrew Paul Sayon of the Diocese of Kalibo

3. Chapter of Our Lady of the Rosary (Ilocandia Region) headed by Msgr. Gary Noel S. Formoso of the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia

4. Chapter of San Jacinto (Cagayan Valley Region) headed by Fr. Ernest Raymund Simeon of the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao

5. Chapter of Santo Domingo (National Capital Region and nearby Provinces) headed by Fr. Anthony Arvin Madla of the Diocese of Boac

6. Chapter of St. Antoninus (Mindanao Region) headed by Fr. Charles Allan Nemenzo of the Diocese of Kidapawan

7. Chapter of St. Raymond of Peñaflor (Bicolandia Region) headed by Fr. Xavier Amoroso of the Archdiocese of Caceres

8. Chapter of St. Thomas Aquinas (Metro Manila and nearby Provinces) headed by Fr. Carlo del Rosario of the Archdiocese of Manila

9. Chapter of St. Vincent Ferrer (Eastern and Central Visayan Region) headed by Fr. Simplicio Pugasan Jr. of the Archdiocese of Cebu

On the same occasion, Brother Bruno engaged the priests in a fraternal reflection on varied topics relating to the participation of the secular priests in the mission and spirit of the Order. As the priests shared about their experiences in the particular contexts of their respective dioceses, the Master responded accordingly, touching on subjects of diversity and the universality of mission, on discovering one’s identity, and on engagement in socio-political issues, among others. Underscoring the relevance of one’s membership in the fraternities to the life and ministry of the secular priest, Brother Bruno asserted, “Preaching is our way of sanctification; proclaiming the Gospel leads us to discover who we are.”

Shortly after the ceremonies, six diocesan priests were received into the fraternities by the Master of the Order himself in a Rite of Admission held within the celebration of the Morning Prayer at the nearby Santo Domingo Church. The priests who were vested with the habit of the Dominican friars were formally admitted for different fraternities: for the Chapter of the Most Holy Rosary—Fr. Brethen Rye Gamala (Diocese of Bacolod); for the Chapter of St. Vincent Ferrer—Fr. Joseph Morallon (Diocese of Marbel); for the Chapter of St. Thomas Aquinas—Fr. David Reyes (Diocese of San Pablo), Fr. Glenn Relucio (Diocese of Antipolo), and Fr. Herbert Camacho and Msgr. Gerry Santos (Archdiocese of Manila).

Presiding over the Morning Prayers was the Prior Provincial, with the seminarians of the UST Central Seminary Chapter as servers of the liturgy. The rite was attended by the diocesan priests and seminarians of St. Dominic, members of the Dominican Family, and the parishioners of the church of Santo Domingo. The celebratory mood culminated in a gathering of the entire Dominican Family with the Master of the Order at the UST-Angelicum Gym, during which Brother Bruno addressed the members of the family of St. Dominic in the Philippines.

As the diocesan priests of St. Dominic proceed with grateful appreciation for the fraternal support that is generously showed to them by the different communities of the friars, the Province looks forward with much hope for the growth of the chapters, and for the promising opportunities for apostolic collaboration with the Dominican Family.

fr. Florentino A. Bolo Jr., OP
Provincial Promoter
Priestly Fraternities of St. Dominic in the Philippines
We Have Family in Iraq: Dominican Sisters Conference 2017 Delegation

Dominican Sisters Conference Announces Delegation to Iraq
Plans for solidarity visit is contingent on outcome of Kurdish independence vote

Three U.S. Dominican women planning to visit their counterparts in Iraq are awaiting word from the sisters in Iraq to determine whether the outcome of the non-binding referendum on Kurdish independence held on Monday (today, yesterday) will impact the trip.

“They are scheduled to travel in mid-October and will go ahead as long as our sisters in Iraq deem it safe,” said Sister Marcelline Koch, OP, (Springfield) North American Co-promoter of Justice for the U.S. Dominicans. The delegates will spend about 10 days in the country, learning from the Iraqi Dominicans about their schools, ministries, and plans for supporting thousands of families displaced by ISIS in 2014 as they begin to return to their homes in villages on Nineveh Plain.

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.’”

In the intervening 18 years there have been four other official delegations, multiple visits by other individual members of the order to Iraq, and many longer-term residencies by Iraqi Dominican sisters in the United States. The Dominicans have also become conduits for financial support of the ministry of the Iraqi Dominicans which include pastoral work, orphanages, pre-schools, elementary schools, and health facilities.

“We’ve forged a unique bond with our Dominican family in Iraq that is rooted in our sense of complicity for the impact of decades of ineffective U.S. policy and devastating military action, the consequences of which were manifest in the ability of ISIS to decimate the country so thoroughly beginning in 2014,” said Sister Beth Murphy, OP, a member of the Iraq Coordinating Committee (ICC). “At the same time, we’ve learned a tremendous amount from our Iraqi sisters and brothers about trust in God, the courage to proclaim the gospel ‘whether convenient or inconvenient,’ and their ability to accompany persons whose lives have been up-ended by violence, political uncertainty, and terror,” she continued. The ICC is a committee of the North American Dominican Justice Promoters in partnership with the Dominican Sisters Conference (DSC).

The delegates are Sister Catherine Waters, OP (Caldwell, NJ.), Sister Rose Ann Schlitt, OP (Adrian, Mich.) and Gloria Escalona, a member of the St. Albert the Great Chapter of Dominican Laity in Oakland, Calif. Sister Catherine and Gloria were members of a previous delegation to Iraq in 2001. Sister Rose Ann lived with one of the members of the Iraq congregation during a period of ministry in Rome. Their biographies, and a timeline of the Iraq and US Dominicans’ relationship, follow.

News about the delegation can be followed at facebook.com/WeHaveFamilyInIraq2017 and on the DSC website.

The Dominican Justice Promoters represent the sisters, friars, and laity of the Dominican Family in the U.S. The DSC represents 6,000 Catholic sisters and their associates across the United States. Funds for the delegation have been contributed by Dominican Sisters, Friars, and Laity throughout the U.S.
Within two weeks Lay Dominican delegates, observers and guests from almost all European Provinces and Vicariates will come together in Fatima for their 10th Assembly 4 – 8 October 2017. It will be a very special Assembly not only because it is a jubilee having a European Assembly for the 10th time, but also because of the jubilee of Fatima, where 100 years ago the Virgin Mary gave several messages for the world to three children of Fatima. Being in this place of grace is for us Lay Dominicans a privilege.

The Assembly will be held in

Hotel Casa das Irmãs Dominicanas
Rua Francisco Marto 50
2495 – 448
Fátima – Portugal

The Assembly has an inspiring programme on the theme

LAY DOMINICANS – PREACHERS OF HOPE

with talks by Fr. Bruno Cadoré, who is the Master of the Dominican Order, Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, writer of widely known books and other publications and former Master of the Dominican Order, and Sr. Yosé Höhne-Sparborth, who has already been involved for some years in projects with traumatised people in war situations, at the moment especially in Kirkuk, Iraq.

Every day we have several liturgical moments: Lauds, Mass, Rosary, Vespers.

And a new European Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities (ECLDF) has to be elected for the coming four years.

The organizing current council, together with two wonderful Portuguese Lay Dominican helpers, has prepared this Assembly with great pleasure, knowing it will also be a time of joy, meeting lay brothers and sisters and other members of the Dominican Family from all over Europe. A visit to the beautiful old Dominican gothic Monastery of Batalhe is also planned in the programme. And we will have a special social evening with the whole Dominican Family of Portugal.

During the Assembly the webmaster of the website of European Lay Dominicans, will publish information and impressions on the site as often as possible during the Assembly. So those who are not physically at the Assembly can participate digitally!

Please, pray with us that the Assembly will fortify our mission in the Order as Lay Dominicans of Europe and will also fortify our fraternal connections.

The Assembly prayer:

O GOD, OUR FATHER,

WHO GAVE US YOUR PEACE THROUGH JESUS AND LED OUR FATHER ST. DOMINIC THROUGH HIM TO BECOME A PREACHER OF YOUR WORD TO THE WHOLE WORLD, WE PRAY AS LAY DOMINICANS ALL TOGETHER THAT WE MAY INCREASINGLY BECOME TRUE SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN ST. DOMINIC, IN GREAT LOVE FOR YOUR SON AND FOR ALL PEOPLE, ALL THOSE WHOM WE CARE FOR IN YOUR NAME.
IN THIS PLACE WHERE THE VIRGIN MARY INVITES US TO PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD, GRANT US, WE PRAY, THAT PEACE MAY REIGN AMONG ALL PEOPLES, THAT THE LEADERS OF THE NATIONS FIND WAYS TOWARDS JUSTICE, THAT WE MAY ALL REACH PEACE OF HEART, AND

THAT, THROUGH THE INTERCESSIONS OF THE VIRGIN MARY WE MAY BECOME BUILDERS OF A MORE FRATERNAL WORLD REAL PREACHERS OF HOPE,

THROUGH CHRIST, OUR LORD. AMEN.

In St. Dominic,
Leny Beemer-de Vos, President ECLDF

Fr James Channan, OP honored with African Interfaith Harmon Award

A Pakistani Dominican friar, Fr James Channan, OP, Director of Peace Center Lahore, Pakistan and Regional Coordinator of URI for Asia-Pakistan, was honored with the “African Interfaith Harmony Award of the Year” in a beautiful ceremony which was organized in a local hotel in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina on 15th of September, 2017. He was selected for this prestigious award by the United Religions Initiative (URI), Africa.

The announcement of this international award was made by Ambassador, Dr. Mussie Hailu, Regional Director of URI (United Religions Initiative) for Africa and Representative of URI at African Union Countries (AUC) and UN Office in Africa. Fr James Channan OP won this award as written on the award plaque, ”In recognition of the ongoing great contribution in promoting interfaith harmony and peaceful co-existence among followers of different religions in Pakistan and other parts of the world and for setting a good example as religious leader in addressing counter violent extremism and enhancing inter-religious constructive dialogue and cooperation for the common good of all based on the teaching of the Golden Rule.”

The beautiful award was jointly presented to him by His Grace, John Baptist, Odama, Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Gulu, Uganda, Ambassador Dr. Mussie Hailu, Ethiopia, Ms. Rattan Kaur Channa, Kenya, Ms. Despina Namwembe, Uganda, Honorable Alisha Buba Yero, Nigeria and Ms. Karnen Barenscche from South Africa. At the ceremony there were over 100 leaders of URI from around the world who had come to Sarajevo for the Global Leaders Gathering of URI. These leaders were from different religions such as: Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism, Bahaism and several tribal religions.

Fr James Channan is well-known and recognized for his untiring work in promoting peace, harmony and dialogue among the believers of different religions, especially in Pakistan which is confronted with many challenges such as of violence, terrorism, extremism and discrimination in the name of religion. In his opinion to establish lasting peace, reconciliation, justice and cultures of peace it is of prime importance to have dialogue among people of different religions. And religions can play imperative role in bringing reconciliation, respect for all and discrimination towards none. Our religions also teach us love every human being and respect them. Each one of us must build bridges of love, peace, respect for all the break the walls of hatred, violence and non acceptance. For lasting peace in the world is of prime importance that we act upon the teachings of religions and especially the Golden Rule which is taught by all religions and by our Lord Jesus Christ who said;

“In Everything, do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 7.12)
Fr Channan said that he will keep on contributing his best for the very important mission of the Church which is interreligious dialogue, and it is also one of the main priority of the Dominican Order around the globe. The international organization of URI is also working hard in 102 countries to promote harmony and good will among people of all religions, cultures. Interreligious dialogue and respect among the followers of all religions can bring a very significant and positive change in the world. The time has come that we act upon those teachings and values in different religions which unite us rather than which divide us.

The Director and Staff of Peace Center and URI Regional Staff, Pakistan

**Dominican nuns share what they have sought within their enclosure and what they have found without their phones**

Millennial and monastic: It doesn’t get more counter-cultural than that

When compared to the numbers from the Catholic heyday that was the mid-20th century, current numbers of priests and religious will always pale in comparison. Any honest discussion of these numbers, however, must acknowledge that the heights were an anomaly that perhaps owed as much to the effect of a fairly sympathetic and increasingly available press — and the heroic portrayals of priests and religious in books and movies — as anything else.

Some decades ago, a Capuchin involved in a research project confided to me that the projected numbers for women religious looked so dire that “we may not have any monastics left by 2020.” Fortunately, after decades of gasping, the seminarian numbers are beginning to climb, and religious vocations appear to be regaining their wind and rising from the mat, although not without problems.

Still, it is noteworthy that millennial women — most of them gifted, well-educated, and able to consider a broad array of career and lifestyle paths — are making the very ancient choice to spend their lives in prayerful enclosure.

Perhaps nothing better clarifies the solemn, powerful, and unique value of entering into such a vocation as the words pronounced over a Dominican nun (a moniales in the Order of Preachers) at the time of her first profession when she takes on the black veil, signifying that she has become “recognized as a house of prayer…and a temple of intercession for all people.”

Father Aquinas Guilbeau recently had the opportunity to talk to three such enclosed moniales — all “millennial” women — who are living out their lives within growing contemplative communities in New York, Virginia, and Alabama. Their conversations focused on their vows, and how the governance of monastic family brings its own kinds of freedom and challenges, and these young sisters had a lot to say.

Millenials without smartphones and apps

But asking millennials about specific concepts associated with their generation was an irresistible place to begin, as Fr. Guilbeau did. How do these young religious, raised with smartphones and exposed to the social media trends that give ersatz “meaning” to so many, deal with the absence of all that, he wondered?

For a nun of St. Jude’s Monastery, in Marbury Alabama, it’s not even an issue. “Many cloistered communities today use technology and media to different degrees depending on their particular way of life,” she responded thoughtfully, “[but] this question brings up a significant insight. In the cloister, we live very close to ourselves, each other, and God. We spend no time building an online ‘persona.’ Thus our lives acquire meaning in the freedom of our utter dependence on God.”
For a contemplative, then, electronic fasting is a way of life. But what, she was asked, do the fruits of that fast promise to those still ‘plugged in’?"

“The interior life,” she answered simply. “Interior silence is the first step to living an interior life. I came into the monastery from a very internet-saturated lifestyle … God was certainly drawing me, but I didn’t have much interior ‘space’ to hear Him, to be present to Him. The stillness and ‘emptiness’ of life in the cloister was a big change for me, and very striking.” She noted a line from Georges Bernanos, quoted in Cardinal Sarah’s book God or Nothing: “We understand absolutely nothing about modern civilization if we do not admit first of all that it is a universal conspiracy against any type of interior life.”

Millennials and marriage, a different concept

The number of U.S. millennials who enter into marriage is steadily decreasing, and very little millennial thought is spent pondering deeply on the notion of virginity. Father Guilbeau brought that up to a nun from St. Dominic’s Monastery, in Linden, Virginia, wondering. “How is the ‘nuptial mystery’ of human life lived out in the cloister? How are you, as a woman, a ‘bride’ and ‘mother’?”

“I am a bride in the sense that I have been wholly given over to Christ through my religious profession of vows. A real and unbreakable bond has been forged between us, so much so that the Church does not hesitate to acknowledge this as a kind of nuptial covenant.”

“Like any bride,” the sister continued, “I desire to give my Spouse children — but on the supernatural level.”

This maternity, she acknowledges, is purely a product of grace. “I believe that God indeed uses my life for the good of souls. It was revealed to St. Teresa of Avila that more souls were saved through her hidden life of prayer and penance than were saved through the apostolic efforts of St. Francis Xavier (who reportedly baptized tens of thousands of souls!). I simply believe in faith that he who has made me a special kind of bride also makes me a special kind of mother.”

Forsaking a natural marriage and family life for a supernatural one means genuine sacrifice. “No husband, no children,” she notes with wry humor. “No cozy hearth and home, no family vacations, no hope of grandchildren, no experiences of physical affection with spouse or offspring … Yikes! That can sound pretty dismal. After hearing that who would say, ‘Sign me up!’? Yet people do [and have been] ‘signing up’ for nearly two millennia!

“Evangelical chastity witnesses, first, to the fact that [the pearl of great price] EXISTS and, second, that it’s worth selling everything in order to possess it. In addition, the world need not see me nor hear me in order to receive that witness. The monastery itself stands as witness. It says: God is worth it. Yes, I can say without flinching: God is worth it.”

Millennials not losing their religion

Mindful of studies suggesting that millennials call themselves “spiritual” while distrusting religion, a nun from the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary, in Buffalo, New York, says, “True spirituality is inseparable from true religion,” and shared what she has discovered about religion that might reassure members of her generation.

“Think about it this way: Outward conformity to a litany of commands doesn’t make people happy. It is transformation of our spirit that we desire—harmony within ourselves, harmony with each other, harmony with God.” How is that done? How, she puts forward, can we achieve lasting peace with our neighbors, much less friendship with One who is so totally “other”? “The answer is simple: We can’t! God, however, can, and that is what He does, sending His Son and His Spirit to draw us to Himself.

“Religion is thus not a burden but a gift,” the young nun insists, “[it is] the Jacob’s ladder, as it were, by which God comes down to us and leads us back to Him. As a contemplative nun, I experience this gift with
special intensity. Just imagine living with 10 or 20 very different women, cloistered for life. Impossible! — were Christ not present at the heart of our home, guiding us, teaching us, loving us, forgiving us.

“The grace of His word and of His sacraments is real,” she concludes, “and it is powerful indeed!”

Millennials seeking joy, freedom, and actualization

Power, however has nothing to do with why any of these women entered monastic life. Rather, they were attracted by joy, and by a promise of freedom, albeit a paradoxical one, that the world cannot give.

“I was over in Krakow in 2008, studying Catholic social teaching with the Polish Dominican friars,” shared the Buffalo sister. “I’d been quietly discerning a vocation for several years, but somehow hadn’t known that the cloistered life was still alive and vibrant in the family of St. Dominic. Yet here we were, young people of the third millennium, peering through an iron grille at women clad in a medieval habit, and … they weren’t so different from ourselves. One young nun spoke English and served as our interpreter, though the laughter of the evening needed no translation. The nuns were happy! It was then that the little seed of my cloistered vocation stirred to life. Behind that grille was a foreign land, a mystery of faith. But the glimpse I’d had told me that theirs was a beautiful life, hidden with Christ in God.”

“The cloister was nowhere on my radar,” said the nun at Linden, who, as a nursing student, had envisioned herself married, with a family. A religious conference inspired her to dare God to “ruin my life,” and then it seemed all she wanted was the freedom to make her life with him. “That’s what initially drew me to the monastery. I simply wanted to be with God.”

In the outside world she found herself unable to do that. “Let’s face it: we live and breathe in a culture that is largely anti-God. I found myself fighting a constant uphill battle. Surely, I thought, there must be an easier way! A monastery is like a little oasis of the sacred in the midst of our secular world. It frees us from the noise and distractions which turn our attention away from ‘the one thing necessary.’ Here I am free to simply be with God.”

“Growing up’ would capture it, I think,” answers the sister at Marbury. “My mother had us spend half an hour every day reading the Bible. Over time, I clearly heard in Scripture the call God extends to every human person: the invitation to quench our thirst at the fount of living water. … I wanted to respond to this call by living totally for God.”

The cloistered contemplative vocation did challenge her, though. “I always wanted to be a teacher. In fact, I taught 5th and 6th grade that next year while applying to enter the monastery.” Still, “In the words of one of our sisters who died right before her 90th birthday, after 70 years in the monastery: ‘It’s been the best life.’”

Elizabeth Scalia

**Study Week and Conference on 'Science and Religion' in Trogir, Croatia**


This year, that international project for students and young researchers celebrated its 20th anniversary. Both events hosted a group of almost 40 participants and speakers from Croatia, United Kingdom, France, Poland, Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Iran.

Since it gathered theologians, philosophers, physicists, biochemists, and biologists, there was unique opportunity to discuss questions about evolution and human genetics, whether a scientific culture can
provide a satisfactory substitute for religion, what does science tell us about religious postulates such as God, free will, and the soul, could God intervene in the natural world, does science provide an exhaustive view of human persons and the like.

The meeting was also accompanied by the Croatian National Television.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the project, an organ concert was performed in the Cathedral of Trogir by Maestro Alen Kopunović Legetin. The compositions played were written by the composers from this year's participating countries.

Srecko Koralija, OP
Organizer

**Dominican Sisters serve victims of Hurricanes Harvey & Irma in the US**

Among the many Americans serving victims of Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma, Catholic sisters are playing a vital role.

They are helping however they can, whether that means assisting with paperwork or prayer.

Dominican Sisters of Mary Immaculate Province of Houston have helped locals fill out FEMA applications, translating for some Vietnamese families and assisting others with the trickier portions, according to The Dallas News. The Dominican Sisters have guided victims through a foreign process, directing them on how to approach clean-up and how to document their losses. Providing a listening ear, a huge and a prayer have also been part of their post-hurricane ministry.

"They need to tell their stories," Sister Bernadette Nguyen told The Dallas News. "It's so important for their own processing to understand what's happened to them and to help them through these big disasters."

Sister Bernadette became an expert on FEMA in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina, when her convent took in some 300 families who fled New Orleans.

Providing disaster relief quickly is important, Sister Bernadette learned, but so is being a compassionate friend. That's why she has been visiting local shelters to talk to families who have been devastated by Hurricane Harvey.

"They need to know someone cares."

Christina Capecchi

**Professions in the Province of the Netherlands: Signs of Renewal**

For the fourth consecutive year, the friars of the Province of the Netherlands are celebrating simple profession. There is an added bonus this year, as they are also celebrating a solemn profession after a 19-years drought. This time, frs Augustine Aerssens and Richard Steenvoorde were at the center of the international celebration at Steiger, Rotterdam on Sunday, September 10, 2017.

Presiding at the melodious liturgical celebration was the Provincial of the Netherlands, fr René Dinklo. He was assisted by the Provincial of England, fr Martin Ganeri, the Provincial of Teutonia, fr Peter Kreutzwald and a number of friar
The brothers promised obedience to the Master of the Order in their profession but they do this in the hands and through the provincial. Fr Augustine made his simple vows for three years while fr Richard made his solemn vows until death. The last time there was a solemn profession in the Province of the Netherlands was in 1998 in the hands of then Provincial, fr Jan Verheul. Ironically, the candidate was fr René Dinklo, the current Provincial.

The readings and the prayers were proclaimed by: Sr Josephina Burger, a Dominican Sisters of Voorschoten, Leny Beemer, a lay Dominican, Thijs Caspers, a friend and fr Tiemen Brouwer.

In his homily, fr René emphasized the resilience of the community life of the brothers and the importance of being enabled first by the love of God and secondly, by one’s own mental and physical health which is a prerequisite for being able to work within divine grace. Community life is a place of formation for mutual love. Community life could sometimes be difficult and a burden but at the same time, it is an ecosystem – sometimes an eccentric ecosystem – in which we learn to guide and protect each other and to feed and drink from the source of divine love. In this situation, we may become true proclaimers of the Good News of Jesus of Nazareth for the sake of human happiness. May it be so for our brothers, Augustine and Richard.

After the liturgical celebration, there were festivities with the friars and their parents, siblings, friends and relatives present.

**Sister Miriam: The Dominican Sister who helped discover DNA**

*Sister Miriam (December 24, 1913 – June 17, 2002)*

The Michigan-based nun was also a prominent cancer researcher, educator, and lecturer.

The discovery of DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, was a groundbreaking step in understanding the building blocks of all living creatures. DNA is a molecule in each cell that bears the genetic instructions for the development and reproduction of living organisms, including viruses.

The credit for the discovery of the DNA double helix has gone to American biologist James Watson, English physicist Francis Crick and New Zealand biologist Maurice Wilkins, but they would not have won their 1962 Nobel Prize without the work of several scientists before them, including Wilkins’ colleague Rosalind Franklin and Dominican Sister Miriam Michael Stimson.

Sister Miriam (December 24, 1913 – June 17, 2002) was an Adrian Dominican and a professor of chemistry at Siena Heights University, Adrian, Michigan. Her obituary notes:

“Her early success in chemistry, working on early research examining cells, led to an invitation to lecture at the Sorbonne in Paris. She was the second woman to lecture there: the first was Marie Curie. She later received international recognition for her early work with the spectroscope, a tool used for analyzing chemicals, and wrote manuals for using the instrument.”

Beyond that, Sister Miriam worked on wound-healing hormones, helping to create Preparation H. She established a research laboratory at Siena Heights in 1939, where she researched cancer for more than 30 years. Known at Siena as “M2,” Sister Miriam introduced undergraduate research and an addiction counseling program.

Arguably, her most significant contribution in cancer research was her solution that unlocked the shape of DNA nucleobases. Jun Tsuji’s book *The Soul of DNA* records:
“For lack of knowledge of the DNA double helix, scientists were unable to understand the genetic roots of cancer, and subsequently they were unable to develop effective methods of treatment. In the early 1950s, scientists were on the verge of discovering the DNA double helix and unveiling cancer as a genetic disease. Stumped by the uncertainty regarding the shape of the DNA bases, the structural and functional “soul” of DNA, the male-dominated scientific establishment – from James Watson and Francis Crick to Linus Pauling – proposed models of DNA that were, in effect, inside out. In contrast, a woman, Sister Miriam Michael Stimson, OP, an Adrian Dominican sister and chemist, dared to imagine a solution to the DNA base problem. Using potassium bromide (KBr) to prepare the DNA bases for analysis by infrared spectroscopy, Sister Miriam Michael successfully developed a chemical method that affirmed the structure of the DNA bases and of the double helix itself.”

Sister Miriam saw her scientific work as a means of discovering truth that would lead us closer to God. Indeed, DNA investigations led prominent atheist philosopher Antony Flew to affirm God’s existence:

“What I think the DNA material has done is that it has shown, by the almost unbelievable complexity of the arrangements which are needed to produce (life), that intelligence must have been involved in getting these extraordinarily diverse elements to work together. It’s the enormous complexity of the number of elements and the enormous subtlety of the ways they work together. The meeting of these two parts at the right time by chance is simply minute. It is all a matter of the enormous complexity by which the results were achieved, which looked to me like the work of intelligence.”

– William West, “One Flew out of the atheists’ nest: How DNA investigations led a philosopher to affirm a ‘creative intelligence’ at the origin of life.”

Let us pray for teachers and scientists like Sister Miriam, who “was interested in each student as a person, not simply as a mind to be taught,” and was so humble about her brilliant work that students only learned about it through a book. Scientific knowledge will lead us to God, if we maintain a disposition of humility and love. As the first Director of NASA Wernher Von Braun said: “Scientific concepts exist only in the minds of men. Behind these concepts lies the reality which is being revealed to us, but only by the grace of God.”

Jean Elizabeth Seah

“Go, Preach”: A Regional Colloquium on Dominican Preaching in Asia and the Pacific

The Dominican Province of the Philippines, the Institute of Preaching and the Dominican Family in the Philippines invites you to a regional colloquium on Dominican Preaching in Asia and the Pacific titled,

“Go, Preach” (Vade Praedica)
10 – 12 October 2017
At the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines

Rationale:
Per inspiration, motivation and fruition of the Dominican Jubilee Colloquium on Preaching, held at St Louis, Missouri, USA, last October 2016, and the impetus provided by the International Congress on the Mission of the Order, held at the Angelicum in Rome, Italy last January 2017, at the closing of the Jubilee, the Institute of Preaching, under the aegis of the Province of the Philippines is graciously hosting the regional Colloquium on Dominican Preaching in the Asia-Pacific.

The Colloquium aims:

To further the conversation on Dominican Preaching in the context of Asia-Pacific realities and challenges.
To bring into discourse the experiences and reflections of Dominican friars, sisters and lay people, arising from their preaching mission, in the midst of the great religious cultures of Asia-Pacific.

To offer a venue for emergent and divergent voices of Dominican Preaching in Asia-Pacific (Youth, Film, New/Social Media, Indigenous Peoples etc.)

For inquires on registration and participation, please contact:
Institute of Preaching,
San Pio V Building,
Santo Domingo Church Compound,
537 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City,
1114 Philippines.
Email: pdcis.ip@gmail.com

Promoter General of the Dominican Laity visits Vietnam
Fr Rui Carlos Lopes, Promoter General of the Dominican Laity visited Bui Chu and Thai Binh Dioceses in Hanoi, Vietnam on August 07, 2017 on the celebration of the Feast of St. Dominic. The Asia-Pacific Coordinator of the Dominicans Laity on the International Council, Dr Belen Lorezca-Tangco accompanied him to address some fifteen thousand Lay Dominicans gathered in the Bui Chu Cathedral and open areas where the procession of the image of St. Dominic took place. The Bishop, Vicar of the Bishop and the Diocesan Promoter welcomed them.

In Thai Binh Diocese, the Bishop presided over the Eucharistic Celebration attended by five thousand Lay Dominicans. The Dominican fathers hosted them at the Dominican residence. Fr Vincent Lu Ha, who served as Socius to the Master for Asia-Pacific, graciously interpreted talks by Fr Rui and Dr Belen before thousands of Lay Dominicans.

In Ho Chi Minh City, they were received by the Lay Dominican National Service Council and were hosted at the Provincial House of the Province of Vietnam by the Prior Provincial, Fr Joseph Nguyen Duc Hoa. Fr Joseph accompanied them at the Eucharistic Celebration and other activities at St. Martin de Porres Parish, Xuan Loc, the diocese where many thousands of Lay Dominicans actively participated in the Dominican celebration.

Mr Vincent Libo-on of the Provincial Secretariat, Dominican Province of the Philippines and of the Lay Dominican Regional Secretariat for Asia-Pacific, and the National Service Council Officers of Vietnam headed by Mr Joseph Do An Ninh, the National President, also graced the diocesan visits on August 5-13, 2017.

Ms. Maria Hoang Kim Dung, a professed Lay Dominican joyfully served as interpreter. To date, there are 117,000 Vietnamese Lay Dominicans.

Dominican Sisters Celebrate 150 Years in Australia
On 4th September 1867, after a perilous journey of three months on a tiny wooden sailing ship, the ‘Martha Birnie’, eight brave and generous Irish Dominican Sisters disembarked in Sydney. They immediately went to St Patrick’s Church at the Rocks to give thanks for a safe journey and ask a blessing on their new venture.

They were on their way to Maitland NSW, where
they had been invited by the Irish Bishop, Dr James Murray, to found a community, and a Congregation, in
his new diocese among people many of whom were part of the Irish Diaspora. The Sisters’ ministry would
be to teach young boys and young women of all classes their Catholic faith and provide them with all the
tools they would need to live as good Christian men and women in the relatively new colony.

The Bishop who was coming to meet them was held up by serious flooding in Maitland. Finally, on 9th
September they boarded the paddle steamer ‘Morpeth’ and sailed up the coast and down the Hunter River,
arriving at Morpeth, and travelling on to West Maitland joined by almost impassible mud roads, on 10th
September 1867. They were greeted warmly by the people of the district and taken to St John’s Cathedral
for Benediction and the ‘Te Deum’. Then the Bishop accompanied them to the new convent around the
corner and said ‘you are home now at last’.

Vulnerable and trusting, the women summoned all their faith, courage and Dominican heritage and adapted
quickly to their new environment. On 16th September, having obtained special permission from the Pope to
leave the cloister and cross the small road, the Sisters took over St John’s National School. By 23rd
September they were ready to open St Joseph’s Select Day School for Girls in the Convent. On 15th
October some received teacher’s certificates and government salaries. By January 1868, within purpose built
premises, they opened St Mary’s Boarding School. The first young Australian, Annie Murnane, joined the
fledgeling community in 1871.

Over the next 150 years, the Community would open 21 secondary schools, 7 secondary boarding schools,
open or take over 27 primary schools, 6 primary boarding schools, 11 entities for children with hearing-
impairment, 2 schools for children with vision impairment and other disabling conditions, 2 teacher training
institutions and a mission in the Solomon Islands, originally alongside South Australian Sisters and some
friars as well as lay co-workers. All of this accumulated ministry, which has had a profound impact on the
lives of thousands of students, families and co-workers has been accomplished by just 372 professed Sisters
in the Australian section of the Congregation.

Over the past 50 years, brave women have handed their educational ministry to capable and dedicated lay
people well schooled in the Dominican Charism. Sisters themselves have taken up urgent calls to live and
preach the Gospel in a whole variety of ministries suited to their skills sets and circumstances, and the needs
of people living on the edge of life. Today the Congregation of Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and
the Solomon Islands is part of the Federation of Dominican Sisters in Oceania, holds foundation membership
of Dominican Sisters International and is closely associated with all the other branches of the Dominican
Family in Australia, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. Currently the Congregation
is made up of 78 Australian Sisters and 30 Sisters of Solomon Islands background. We range in age from 20
to 98 years. We are especially blessed with the wisdom of 17 Sisters over 90 and the joyful youth of 14
Sisters in formation.

How will we celebrate this significant anniversary, and give thanks to God for all that has been accomplished
for the sake of the Gospel in the name of Dominic, Catherine and all the Dominican holy ones?

Our Sisters and co-workers and our schools in the Dominican Tradition, have already joined forces in their
local areas to hallow the memory of the pioneer Sisters, with moving presentations and prayer services. This
was occasion for a double feast for St Columban’s Primary School and San Clemente High School in
Newcastle who in the last two weeks have marked the centenary of their establishments with tributes to their
founding Sisters.

On 4th September some of us Sisters will join the normal St Patrick’s Church community at the Rocks, at
10.30 am Mass, just as the Sisters did in 1867. Our Marist brothers there will use the chalice that came out
on the Martha Birnie. Feel free to join us if you are able.

St Mary’s Campus, All Saints College Maitland will celebrate with a series of events, beginning with a
Garden Party on 10th September, and followed by a Mass and Dinner later in the month.
Sisters will celebrate together in Maitland on 12th September with Mass in St John’s Church, where the Irish Sisters were first introduced to the Diocese. Bishop Bill Wright, like Dr Murray before him, will lead us.

Another most significant celebration will take place at the end of October at our Congregational Chapter. For the very first, and probably the last time, all the Sisters from the Solomon Islands and the Australian Sisters, whatever their age and stage, will gather first in Sydney for two days to rejoice in our common heritage, the richness of our diversity and the overwhelming generosity of our God. The opening Mass of our Chapter will be celebrated in the presence of the entire Congregation, family members, co-workers, friends and those who have enriched our lives by sharing the Dominican charism with us. Delegates will then move on to the decision making part of our Chapter.

As a former Prioress said some years ago, in words equally apt for today:

“Our generation of Dominicans is called, on the one hand, to preserve the valid heritage of the past, but we must also, and this is as necessary, set up the future. Dominic knew how to found new forms on authentic old forms. In this way it is generally recognized that he surmounted the crisis in the world and in the Church of his time by the foundation of the Dominican Order. In the course of centuries, the Dominican Order has meant much to the Church, especially for its renewal, and that is because Dominic wanted to mark Dominican life with two characteristics: openness to the contemporary world and courage. We cannot rest on the laurels of our past, nor are we only responsible to the Church of today, we must also seek new ways for the Church of tomorrow. If we work together in Dominic’s Spirit, we will be able to accomplish our part of the tasks that await us today and orient us towards the future.”

(Sr Joan Compton, Prioress General, 1978)

As we determine our future direction, we ask for your prayers that we may continue to be faithful to our wonderful heritage, grateful for the witness of those who have walked ahead of us, humbled by the support of all those with whom we share the charism. Above all, as we reflect on 150 years, may we be blessed by the God of surprises with open hearts and hands, ready to participate in God’s future, full of hope in God’s abundant mercy and fruitfulness.

A heartfelt thank you to all of you who have shared our story over these years, and continue to support us with your presence and your interest.

OPFAM

Official News

Fr Joseph Ngo Si Dinh is the Secretary General of the General Chapter of Xuân Lộc 2019

The next General Chapter in 2019 will be hosted by the Province of Vietnam and it will take place in the city of Xuân Lộc.

In accordance with LCO 414, which requires that the Master of the Order appoint a Secretary General of the Chapter who will, “have charge of everything that pertains to the preparation and organization of the Chapter”, fr Bruno Cadoré has appointed fr Joseph Ngo Si Dinh as the Secretary General of the General Chapter of Xuân Lộc 2019.

Fr Joseph is a son of the Province of Vietnam. Born in 1955 in Hà Tinh, northern Vietnam, he made his first profession in the Order in 1974 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1993.
He studied Philosophy and Theology at the Center of Studies of the Province and spent three years in Paris studying Moral Theology.

He has served in the following capacities; Student Masters (1994 – 1999), Moderator of the Center of Studies for two terms (2004 - 2007 and 2015) and Prior Provincial for two terms (2007 – 2015).

He is currently a Provincial Councillor, Moderator of the Center of Studies in Govap and a lecturer in Moral Theology and Metaphysics.

Xuân Lộc is a district of Đồng Nai Province, Vietnam, in the South East region of the country.

**Fr Michal Paluch, the New Rector of the Angelicum takes his Oath of Office**

Fr Michal Paluch, the New Rector Magnificus of the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas, Rome has assumed his new office today, 13 September 2017. He took his oath of office by making the Profession of Faith. This follows his nomination by the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré, the approval by the Congregation for Catholic Education and his subsequent appointment.

Fr Michal took his oath of office in the Chapter Room of the Convent of Santa Sabina. The same place where the two Polish Dominicans, St Hyacinth and Blessed Ceslaus received the habit from the hands of St Dominic. This is symbolic since fr Michal is a Polish brother.

Present at the oath taking were; the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré, members of the General Council of the Order and some friars of the convent.

Fr Michal will be in office for a term of 4 years.

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**Calendar of the Master of the Order for October 2017**

4-5: Assembly of the Dominican Lay Fraternities at Fatima, Portugal
6-7: Meeting of the Federation of Nuns of Spain at Madrid, Spain
12-14: Rosary Congress at Fatima, Portugal
16-19: Canonical Visitation to the Province of Netherland
Oct 23-Nov 3: Canonical Visitation to the Province of India

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*All articles are available on www.op.org*