

INTERNATIONAL LITURGICAL COMMISSION OF THE ORDER

Historical brief of the commission

Prior to the Council of Vatican II, the Order of Preachers had a particular Liturgical tradition known as the Dominican Rite. It was a Latin tradition of the same family as the Roman Rite, having nevertheless specific elements, especially with regard to the ritual of the Mass, whether celebrated simply by one priest, or more solemnly with deacon and sub-deacon. The Dominican Rite had likewise specific elements with regard to the Divine Office, the liturgical year, the liturgy for the sick and for the dead. There existed besides, other particularities in the domain of prayers associated with the regular life.

The liturgical reform called for by the Council of Vatican II, occasioned an important renewal of the Latin liturgies. Besides, the positive entrance into the liturgy of living languages, caused the Order to ask the question about maintaining its proper Rite, given that each linguistic zone was required to bring out editions of the Liturgical books in its own language. This was an occasion for reflection in the course of General Chapters since those of Bogota (Columbia) in 1965 and River Forest (USA) in 1968, -which gave rise to a new wording of the Dominican Constitutions- to those of Tallaght (Ireland) in 1971, and Madonna dell'Arco (Italy) in 1974. In the long run, the Order of Preachers requested the Holy See's authorisation to adopt the books of the renewed Roman Rite (Missal, Liturgy of the Hours), while conserving specific elements of the traditional Dominican Rite.

The General Chapter of Madonna dell'Arco gave its approval to three important documents: a list of the specific elements to be retained; revision of the liturgy for the sick and for the dead, and indications for the Order's ceremonial.

These documents have served as a line of guidance and of orientation for the Liturgical Commission of the Order, nominated in 1974 in place of and following on the former Liturgical Institute which had its headquarters in Santa Sabina.

From 1974 to 2001, the Liturgical Commission of the Order, was presided over by fr Vincenzo Romano of the province of Sicily, previously socius to the Master of the Order fr Vincent de Couesnongle, then Provincial of Sicily, and today member of the province of Saint-Thomas Aquinas in Italy. Fr Romano has worked with many experts. It is under his direction and by mandate of successive Masters of the Order (Brothers Vincent de Couesnongle, Damian Byrne, Timothy Radcliffe), that the principal Liturgical Books of the *Proper of the Order of Preachers: Liturgy of the Hours* O.P. (1882) ; Missal and Lectionary O.P. (1985); *the Order of Profession* O.P. (1999), *the Order of Anointing and the Order of Burial* O.P. (2001). Parallel with this work of updating our Liturgical customs and the edition of books, the commission collaborates with the provinces for the translation of the O.P. *Proper* in the different languages.

Since November 2001, on the nomination of the Master of the Order fr Carlos A. Azpiroz Costa, the composition of the International Liturgical Commission of the Order (abbreviated as CLIOP) is as follows:

- fr. Dominique Dye O.P. (Province of France) President of the Commission
- fr Frank Borg O.P. (Province of Malta)
- fr Miguel Angel Del Rio Gonzalez O.P. (Province of Spain)
- sr Elena Malaspina (Missionary of School)
- fr Raffaele Quilotti O.P. (Province of St. Dominic in Italy)

On the axis of the main lines given by the General Chapter of Madonna dell'Arco, this commission pursues the work of renewal of our liturgical traditions, of the editing of books and of cooperation with the provinces, the monasteries of nuns, the congregations of sisters, and the different groups of the Dominican Family.