



LUMINARIA



THE VOICE OF THE DOMINICAN LAITY OF THE PROVINCE OF SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES

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“If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8: 31-32).



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RE-DISCOVERING THE ROSARY AS A MEANS OF CONTEMPLATION

31 December 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Within a few days, on the Feast of the Epiphany, we close the Jubilee year thanking the Lord for the 800 years of life for our Nuns of the Order. It has been a year of great blessings touching not only the whole Order, but indeed the broader Church as well. I have been delighted to see so many creative initiatives undertaken by our nuns. Books have been published, hymns have been written, new research into their early foundations has been undertaken, and their contemplative prayer has been and is being renewed. Indeed, the whole Order has come to a better appreciation



fr. Carlos Aspiroz Costa, OP
Master of the Order

that the nuns are at the heart of the Order and that the foundation of our preaching is nothing less than the profound contemplation of our faith. I believe that the renewal of the life of our nuns is directly linked to the renewal of the whole Order.

While this Jubilee year comes to an end, we now begin to undertake a novena of years, culminating in the Jubilee of 2016, 800 years of papal confirmation of the Order of Preachers. At our recent General Chapter in Bogotá, the capitulars requested that we use the time between these two jubilee years (2006-2016) as a time to enter into a serious renewal of our life and mission as preachers. (General Chapter of Bogotá #51) Therefore, I wish to invite each entity of the Order as well as each community and individual to begin the long process of renewal through reflection, decisions and actions taken relating to our whole way of life as preachers of the Gospel.

In order to provide a focus for this next year, **I am proposing that we begin to renew our preaching way of life through re-discovering the Rosary as a means of contemplation and an instrument of prophetic preaching.** In many ways the Rosary, as a uniquely Dominican contribution to the life of the Church, has slipped from our grasp. And, yet at the same time, the Rosary remains very much alive among us. In this letter I would like to offer a simple meditation on the Rosary from the viewpoints of memory, theological reflection and popular religiosity.

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1. Memory

Permit me to bring to mind a few of my own memories, which I hope will elicit some of your own. Memories are important in shaping our identity, putting flesh and blood onto our ideas, and enabling us to re-live and re-interpret pivotal moments in our life.

My first recollection of the Rosary goes back to my early years at Champagnat School of the Marist Brothers in Buenos Aires with the first Rosary that I held in my hands. The brothers instilled in us a real love of Mary as a mother who unconditionally loves and intercedes for her beloved sons and daughters, the Mary of St. John's Gospel. Of course, we had the month of Mary with processions, rosary, and litanies. Even as a young person, I carried a "decade" in my pocket. The repetition of the "Our Father", "Hail Mary" and "Glory be" allowed this prayer to take a deep root within my own life.

To this day, I especially like to pray this prayer while walking. It accompanies me through different landscapes, whether on the road or in town. It is the "wandering contemplation" of which fr. Vincent de Couesnongle spoke. It begins to mark the rhythm of my footsteps, allowing me to have a hold on the world that is constantly in flux. It allows me to give soul, life and heart to the city or place through which I am only passing; to meetings that await me with all their joys and hopes, lights and shadows.

Recently, during one of our retreat days, the General Council reflected on the mystery of death. One of the friars described how dying brothers almost always asked for their Rosary, even if it was only to hold it. I remember seeing the film "Batismo de Sangue" (Baptism of Blood), the story of our Brazilian brothers being tortured back in the 70's during the dictatorship of [the] Medici. Bro. Tito de Alencar, as he was being dragged out of the convent, shouts for a brother to go for his Rosary. What did it mean to him at that hour of terror?

What are your memories regarding the Rosary? What might these mean for you? For me? What might our theological study and reflection have to tell us about them?

2. Theological Reflection

I believe these memories speak to us of the nearness of God. The mystery of the Incarnation is not only about the birth of the Lord in millennia past, but about the incarnation of grace, or the birth of God, in our own daily lives. Jesus lives and His Spirit continues to heal, teach, forgive, comfort and challenge us. This is not an empty abstraction, but rather is made visible in and through the images associated with the mysteries of the Rosary. Awareness of the incarnation increases as one allows these images to intersect with the concerns of our own daily life. Thus, the Rosary is profoundly incarnational, biblical, Christ-centered, and contemporary.

Most obviously, the Rosary is Marian. Let us be clear as to what this means. In Mary, divinity becomes united with humanity; the creature becomes one with the Creator. In Mary we recognize both our identity and our destiny. We see this holy communion of God-with-us and God-within-us. We realize that our God is God-for-us—redeemer and savior, sanctifier and glorifier.

Indeed, Mary is a central figure in our life of faith. While we can think of her as Daughter of the Father, Mother of the Son, and Spouse of the Spirit, we ought also to see her as a believer in the valley of darkness, and one who hopes when confronted by a situation of despair. She can be seen as a protector of pregnant women who give birth in poverty, a patroness of those who migrate to foreign lands in order to survive, and as one who keeps vigil when her child is arrested, tortured and killed. And yet, through all this we see the triumph of her faith, hope and love. Pope John Paul II invited us to contemplate the face of Christ through the eyes of Mary.

What might this mean to us? As Master of the Order, I am a missionary who strengthens my brothers and sisters scattered throughout the world. I hear their stories and see their reality. I remember the faces of Christian families badly wounded at Bahawalpure (Pakistan 2001), the neighbors of our sisters in the poorest barrios of Kinshasa (Congo), the children following us in Cameroon, in the Civil War Square in Campodos (Tibu) ,Colombia, families fishing from the canoes off Gizo in the Solomon Islands or in the Urumanba River in the Peruvian Amazon. These images accompany the mysteries and so the Rosary becomes my intercession, along with Mary's, in placing the wounded at the feet of Jesus.

Our world is one that seems to be constantly torn apart by war. Uppermost in my mind is war-torn Iraq, and of course not far behind is the continual bloodshed between Israelis and Palestinians. The 20th century was a century of wars and devastation across the planet. In the worst of these moments, people turned to the Rosary praying for peace. Indeed, was that not the focus of the Fatima devotions for the conversion of Russia and was not Mary invoked as the Queen of Peace? At the same time, let us not minimize those cold wars that can go on within families, communities, and within our own hearts and souls. Cannot the Rosary bring us to peace? This year we also celebrate the 50th anniversary of fr. Dominique Pire, our Belgian brother, who won the Nobel Peace prize for establishing islands of peace. Perhaps his inspiration for this project flowed from his meditations while praying his Rosary for peace.

The words of the prayers accompanying my meditations speak of the kingdom of God, of daily bread, of liberation from evil, of the fruit of the womb, of sinners and of the hour of death. The kingdom of God is justice and peace. The will of God does not coincide with those trampled underfoot. Bread is to be shared. Forgiveness is to be given. The blessed fruit of the womb of women is sacred. Yes, the Rosary—words of Scripture and our lived meditation—makes it a prophetic prayer as well as a contemplative prayer; a prayer that both announces and denounces, a prayer that consoles and transforms. The words that give praise to the Trinity invite us to live in community, without subordination, where each person is totally open and available to the Other. Yes, “God’s will” will be done and so we never despair. Our preaching is hope-filled because “...that which has existed since the beginning, that we have heard with our ears, and we have seen with our own eyes; that we have watched and touched with our hands: the Word who is life—this is our subject.” (1 John 1) Living in the company of Jesus, as Mary did, we become the disciple and the apostle that the world needs and God desires.

3. Popular Religious Practice

After Vatican II, we tended to downplay the importance of “popular religiosity.” Correctly, we emphasized biblical study and greater liturgical participation. In doing this, we also minimized those popular expressions that allowed greater religious sentiment to be expressed; e.g. benediction, processions, pilgrimages to Shrines, Rosary devotions, etc. Now, after forty (40) years of experience, we see that people both old and young need these expressions in order “to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you.” (2 Tim. 1:6)

Such popular religiosity still asserts itself at the great Marian Shrines in every part of the world. This year we celebrate 150 years of Lourdes (France) and 90 years of Fatima (Portugal), just two Shrines that attract literally millions of people every year. One can also think of Guadalupe (Mexico), Czestochowa (Poland), Knock (Ireland), Chiquinquirá (Colombia), Coromoto (Venezuela), Lujan (Argentina), Manaoja (Philippines), and so on. Almost every country of the world has its national shrine to Our Lady that gathers the faithful from far and wide into a maternal embrace.

We still see St. Christopher medals in cars as well as rosaries hanging from rear view mirrors, small altars in homes, or statues in gardens. There are the rituals of ashes at the beginning of Lent and palms at the beginning of Holy Week that inform us as to the desires and religious sentiments of the people. These are rituals that inject a certain order and stability, a certain rhythm and incarnational dimension into the life of ordinary people, enabling them to experience more intense religious moments. Can we Dominicans recover this popular religiosity in terms of something that is peculiarly ours: the Rosary?

I have come to see the Rosary as indeed a beloved universal prayer. Whether in Italy or The Ukraine, Mexico or the United States, the Philippines or Vietnam, Kenya or Nigeria, the Rosary is found, prayed and loved. I believe one reason for this is because it is a tangible reality as well as a prayer. It is something almost every Catholic owns.

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It is given as a gift. It is a ritual whether said alone or together. It is something we can touch, hold, and even grasp at difficult moments of our life; it is like grasping the hand of Mary herself. The Rosary is placed in our hands both at the “hour of our death” and afterwards when we are buried. The prayers of the Rosary are summaries of our faith. Learning these prayers is like learning to talk; it is the beginning of our prayer life; and yes, it is also the end of our life of prayer—“your will be done” “now and at the hour of our death.” We are given a Rosary in our youth, we receive a Rosary when we take the habit, and a Rosary is at our side when we are buried.

Conclusion

I have shared with you some of my reflections, I hope both simple and profound, perhaps more a meditation and heartfelt reflection than anything else. At the General Chapter of Bogotá, it was my privilege to appoint fr. Louis-Marie Ariño-Durand of the Province of Toulouse as the new Promoter of the Rosary. He has developed and is developing an extensive web-site which can be of service to you during this next year. In turn, I am asking you to help him in its development by responding to his requests. Together we can build a web-site that can be beneficial to the whole Church.

As we begin this novena of years in preparation for the anniversary celebration of 2016, can we use this next year, Epiphany 2008-Epiphany 2009 as a year to rediscover the Rosary in our personal life, our community life and in the renewal of our preaching which is both contemplative and prophetic? Can we help shape the popular religiosity of our people through developing anew Rosary novenas, missions, processions or shrines? Can we contemplate our Master through the eyes of the perfect disciple? Can we contemplate the Son through the eyes of the Mother? Can we contemplate our world as one profoundly in need of transformation by the Gospel? Can we come to live and preach passionately with the creativity of God the Father and of Mary the mother of the beloved Son?

I am grateful to have had this opportunity to share with you my own reflections. In the coming months, the General Council will outline the different steps and themes for the next several years of this on-going renewal of our life and mission. I would ask the Provincials and Vicars-General, Prioresses, and Presidents of our Lay Fraternities to see that this letter is circulated among their members. Throughout this New Year, know that you will be frequently remembered in my thoughts and prayers. In turn, I ask for yours.

Brothers and Sisters, let us walk this road of renewal together. Let us set out having the confidence that Dominic had in Mary, the Mother of God.

Your brother in Dominic,

fr. Carlos A. Azpiroz Costa, O.P.
Master of the Order



PASCAL’S WAGER:

IF YOU BELIEVE AND IT PROVES NOT SO, THEN YOU HAVE LOST NOTHING.

IF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE AND IT PROVES SO, THEN YOU HAVE LOST EVERY THING.

COMMENTARY

THE FAMILY OF OUR FAMILY IN IRAQ

29 February 2008



*Sr. Toni Harris, OP
International
Co-Promoter of Justice and Peace*

“Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. We have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways; we refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to every person’s conscience in the sight of God.” 2 COR 4:1-2

An oversized edition of the Holy Scriptures lay open wide on a low table in the center of the room. On closer examination, I realized the text was in Arabic. Our meeting with Bishop Josef Absi, Patriarchal Vicar of the Greek Melkite Church in Damascus, was just concluding. As the Dominicans in the group -- Arlene Flaherty, Dusty Farnan and I -- stood near the table and admired the beautiful script, Bishop Absi joined us. Arlene asked him if he please would read from the page to which the Scriptures were open. He read first in Arabic then translated in English. The Bishop read the verses of 2 Corinthians quoted above. We three Dominicans caught one another’s eyes meaningfully as he read the phrase about speaking the truth.

This providentially proclaimed Word was particularly appropriate for our Catholic Relief Services Sisters Delegation to the Middle East, January 12-20, 2008. Eight Sister delegates traveled with a few CRS staff members to Lebanon and Syria. We hoped to learn the truth about the Iraqi refugees in those countries and to openly state this truth to our various publics and networks following the trip.

Our visit began in Beirut, Lebanon. Our first full day in Beirut included an opportunity to be with some members of our Dominican Family there. Sr. Maria Hanna, Prioress of St. Catherine Congregation from Iraq, and the local prioress, Sr. Germaine, joined us for mass in the Chaldean Cathedral. After mass, we were invited to their convent perched high in the hills north of the city. Their view of the Mediterranean Sea is breathtaking. The Dominican community there provided us with a feast of traditional Mid-eastern foods. This wonderful hospitality of our Dominican Sisters was a preview of the overwhelming hospitality that we would continue to experience everywhere we visited in Lebanon and Syria. (In Lebanon, two congregations of Dominican Sisters are present: St. Catherine, with two communities; Presentation, also with two communities. Presently, there are no Dominicans in Syria. However, Dominicans have been present in the Middle East since the earliest years of the Order. Jordan of Saxony, second Master of the Order, died in a shipwreck off the coast of Palestine in 1237.)

As I contemplate my week-long visit to the Middle East, several threads weave the fabric of the truth that I learned during those days: consequence, desperation; dedication; powerlessness; hospitality.

The consequence or “fall-out” of US policy in the Middle East surrounded us on every side. The US-led invasion of Iraq has not only opened the way for mayhem in Iraq but has also caused enormous problems for neighboring countries. Current estimates (conservative) indicate that 1.5 million Iraqi refugees are in Syria; 700,000 in Jordan; 50,000 in Lebanon. More than 2 million Iraqis are internally displaced in Iraq. Some countries whom the US Government historically denounces are the very ones who have had to “pick-up the pieces” as a result of US policy. Syria, a country the size of North Dakota with a population of about 19 million, is trying to cope with more than 1.5 million Iraqi refugees. In general, Iraq’s neighbors have been tolerant, if not welcoming.

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COMMENTARY

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The desperation of the Iraqi refugees whom we met was tangible. In small groups, we personally visited the homes of Iraqi refugee families. With my small group, I visited three families in Beirut and two families in Damascus. Due to non-existent or non-renewable visas, most Iraqis in the countries are considered illegal. Apartments are over-crowded, without much furniture, and unheated. As undocumented refugees, adults cannot work legally. Family roles are turned-upside-down as children are sent to work at menial tasks to support their families rather than to school. Increasing numbers of women are driven to prostitution. The effects of trauma and depression are widespread and, for the most part, untreated.

The dedication of the Caritas and CRS staff and their partner organizations, as well as others from UNCHR (High Commission for Refugees), was extremely impressive. Many of these persons have spent decades in direct work with refugees and other vulnerable populations. Most significant for me were the strong, competent, and courageous women—especially Sisters – who work tirelessly to address the needs of refugees, particularly refugee women and children. I remember especially the Good Shepherd Congregation, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Congregation, the Lazarus Congregation (Daughters of Charity), and our own Dominican Sisters.

The feeling of powerlessness constantly tempted me to despair throughout our trip. I think of the Iraqi mother of four who begged me to speak to the UNHCR about her case. I can still see the young Iraqi couple and their new baby in a cold basement apartment with no furniture; the young mother refusing to leave the apartment because she was threatened by persons from another sect. I remember the middle-aged couple describing the death threats they received in Iraq; the man simply sat, thin and expressionless, except for his vacant eyes. I won't forget the university-age Iraqis who hoped that we could help them obtain student visas to the US so that they might continue studies interrupted by the US invasion. The experiences of others in the delegation multiplied such stories. The words of Tony Kushner provide some encouragement: “. . . the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice. I do not believe the wicked always win. I believe our despair is a lie we are telling ourselves.”

The hospitality of the people of the Middle East is beyond description. The Chaldean Bishop of Beirut, Bishop Michel Kassarji, served a grand breakfast after our morning meeting with him. Sisters in Lebanon and Syria served us wonderful meals in connection with our visits. Every organization and office with whom we met provided coffee, tea, and delicious sweets. Most significantly, the Iraqi refugee families provided from the little they had something for us to eat and drink (usually Coca-cola) during our visits with them. All this kindness caused me to speculate about what kind of welcome these Middle Eastern people would receive in most places in the US.

Recalling again the Scriptures with which I began, the “ministry” of participation in this Delegation was truly for me “a gift of the mercy of God.” The experiences and learnings confirmed for me the need to continue to “renounce” the “disgraceful and underhanded ways” in which the US government justified the invasion of Iraq, with the resulting violence, death and misery in the Middle East. This “open statement of the truth” demands that citizens of the US, as well as of those other countries who were members of the Iraq invasion coalition (including the UK, Australia, Poland, Spain, Italy, New Zealand), must now help to address the plight of the more than 4 million displaced Iraqis in the Middle East. Citizens need to encourage their governments to welcome more Iraqi refugees in their resettlement programs, to budget more funding for Iraqi refugee assistance, to generously fund UNHCR programs for Iraqi refugees, and to support bilateral funding to ease the burden of host governments with large Iraqi refugee populations.

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COMMENTARY

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In 2002, Dominicans began to remind themselves: "I HAVE FAMILY IN IRAQ." Some continue to wear buttons/badges and to display bumper stickers that announce this message. We want to stand in solidarity with our two congregations of Dominican Sisters, our Vicariate of Friars and hundreds of our Laity. Even now, we CONTINUE to have Family in Iraq. However, many of the family, friends, and neighbors of OUR Family have had to flee Iraq because of the "murder and mayhem" there. (See the US Catholic Bishops Delegation Report, July '07.) As Dominicans, we need to proclaim "the open statement of the truth" to our governments that amends must be made for the enormous damage done in Iraq. We need "to commend ourselves to every person's conscience in the sight of God." The family of our Family in Iraq also stands in need of our solidarity.

(19 March 08 is the Fifth Anniversary of the US-led invasion of Iraq.)

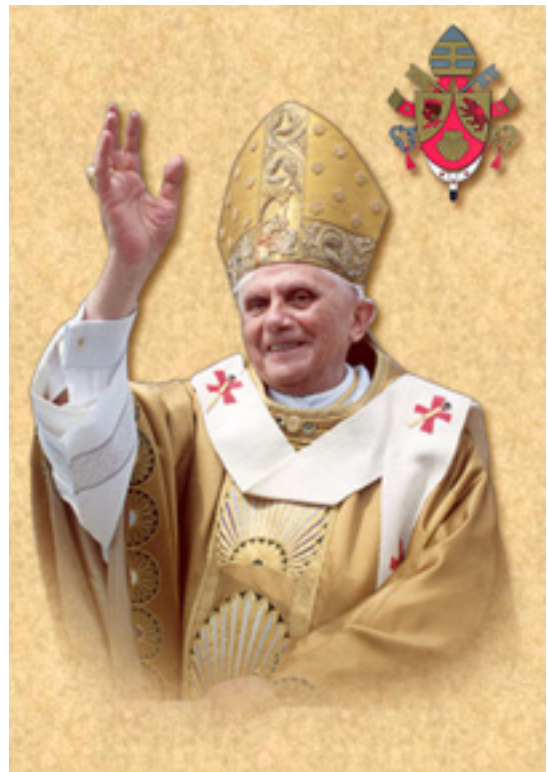
Toni Harris OP
International Dominican Co-Promoter for Justice and Peace
February 2008

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***IF TODAY YOU HEAR HIS
VOICE, HARDEN NOT YOUR
HEART***

Is God calling you to be a Lay Dominican?
Contact Jim Brown, our Dominican Laity
promoter of vocations at jbrown105@cox.net
and visit our website listed on page 12.



Having a clear faith, based on the creed of the church, is often labeled today as a fundamentalism, whereas relativism, which is letting oneself be tossed and swept along by every wind of teaching, looks like the only attitude acceptable to today's standards.

Pope Benedict XVI

CHAPTER NEWS

HEART OF JESUS CHAPTER

by Miss Annette Bourgeois, OP

Lockport Dominican Laity Celebrates Dual Achievements

LOCKPORT, LA On August 11, 2007, the Dominican Laity of the Heart of Jesus Chapter of Lockport celebrated both the ceremonial rites of membership and its final recognition as a full chapter of the Province of St. Martin de Porres, the division of the Dominican Laity of the United States which encompasses eleven southern states, from Texas to Florida.

Chief celebrant at the Eucharist and Dominican Rites was Rev. John Lydon, O.P., Promoter of the Dominican Laity within the Province. Also present was Bruce Trigo, Moderator of the Province of St. Martin de Porres. Participating in the Rite of Admission, the first entry into the Laity was Ms. Barbara Hebert. Entering into the Rite of Temporary Commitment were Ms. Sheila Adams, Mrs. Mary Lee Bourgeois, and Mrs. Dolores Legendre. Completing their five-year study and commitment, Mrs. Gwendolyn Breaux, Mrs. Lonis Compeaux, and Mrs. Lois Gisclair celebrated the Rite of Perpetual Profession.

The Laity has also received the final approval for its request to be recognized as a full chapter of the Dominican Laity in a letter of acceptance from Bishop Sam Jacobs. Beginning with twelve inquirers six years ago, there are twenty-four active and professed members in the chapter, one of the fastest growing in the Province.



L-R: fr John Lydon, OP, Miss Annette Bourgeois, OP and Mr. Bruce Trigo, OP



*L-R Front Row: Lonis Compeaux, Lois Gisclair, Gwendolyn Breaux, Barbara Hebert, fr. John Lydon, OP
Second Row: Julie Sapia, Myra Plaisance, Sheila Adams, Delores Legendre
Third Row: Margaret Boudreaux, Millie Naquin, Mary Lee Bourgeois
Back Row: Terry Chaisson, Patrick Breaux, Carol Guidry, Bruce Trigo, Curtley Boudreaux, Annette Bourgeois, Karen Charpentier and Jene DeCuir*



MOST HOLY ROSARY OF POMPEII PRO-CHAPTER

by Mr. William Malloy, OP

IRVING, TX On March 9, 2008, The Most Holy Rosary of Pompeii Pro-Chapter welcomed its newest member, Heather Barrett. Heather had completed her six month formation of the Inquiry phase and was eager to make her one year promise as a member of the Order of Preachers. The ceremony took place after the homily at the 11:15 A.M. Mass at St. Albert the Great Priory in Irving, Texas. Heather was introduced by Cyndi Martinez, the Vice-Moderator and the ceremony was conducted by William Malloy, the Moderator. The officiating priest was fr. Edward Robinson, O.P., the Spiritual Promoter of the Pro-Chapter.

The Pro-Chapter now has twelve permanently professed members, four temporarily professed members, and four members who have been admitted with the one year promise.

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CHAPTER NEWS

Holy Rosary of Pomoeii Pro-Chapter cont'd from last page



From left to right: Adolfo Muniz, Cheryl Pumphrey, fr. Edward Robinson, Heather Barrett, William Malloy, Cyndi Martinez, Margarita de Leon and Lorna Quinn of the Pro-Chapter after Mass on the day of admission for Heather



SOUTHERN DOMINICAN PROVINCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

by Dr. John Patrick Jordan, OP

1. SOUTHERN DOMINICAN PROVINCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (New Orleans): This Committee is related to the Provincial Development Office whose promoter is Fr. Scott O'Brien. He is also the Campus Chaplain at Barry University in Miami, FL. The New Orleans based Committee is led by Dr. John Patrick Jordan (a Lay Dominican) as president and Fr. R. Chrys. Finn, O.P. as its promoter. Fr. Martin Gleeson, O.P., the Prior Provincial, is usually present for meetings. Key activities involve the 1216 Program where the friars ask for donations for specific needs. Lay Dominicans are able to assist in this effort to help meet the financial requirements of the Province. Dominican parishes also are asked to contribute through the "MD" Program ... More Dominicans! On an annual basis, New Orleans sponsors a Gala which raises basic funds needed to keep the functions of the Province and its friars operational. At the Gala, the St. Martin de Porres Awards are bestowed on very deserving individuals. Participating in such efforts is

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a real way for Lay Dominicans to manifest their support for the Dominican Family ... a Family that meets so many needs in the Southern States.

2. INTERNATIONAL DOMINICAN FOUNDATION (IDF): The Order of Preachers, through the IDF, provides resources to several international programs in support of the Dominican Charism focusing on Christ's words. In the U.S., the office is at One Galleria Blvd., Suite 710-B, Metairie, LA 70001. Fr. Mark Edney, O.P. serves as president. The Board is led by Archbishop Wuerl of Washington, DC and includes Cardinal George of Chicago, four other Bishops, all four U.S. Dominican Provincials, two other priests plus 3 lay people (William E. Simon, Donna Miller Casey and Dr. John Patrick Jordan).

IDF supports the Angelicum (the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas) in Rome; the St. Thomas Aquinas Institute in Kiev; the L'Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem (major center for biblical and archaeological research); the Dominican Institute for Oriental Studies in Cairo (focusing on Christian/Moslem dialogue) as well as projects in Brussels and at Prouilhe (where St. Dominic located the first Dominican nuns).

The Order of Preachers' emphasis through these projects constitutes a part of the Dominican world-wide effort to preach the Word of God!



NOTES OF INTEREST:

1. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST LAY PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ARE AVAILABLE IN PDF FORM AT [HTTP://LUMINARIA.INFO-DAT-LLC.COM](http://LUMINARIA.INFO-DAT-LLC.COM)

2. COPIES OF THE RULE AND DIRECTORY ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SAME WEBSITE OR A HARD COPY IS AVAILABLE FOR A \$5.00 DONATION PLUS POSTAGE AND HANDLING (\$2.00) AT:

LUMINARIA
1419 WATTS AVE.
KATY, TX 77493

CHAPTER NEWS

CENTRAL TEXAS DOMINICAN DAY OF STUDY

by *Russlene Waukechon, OP*

Every year on the first Saturday of January (usually) OP family members in Central Texas come together to study and pray together at their annual day of study. It's a great way for the members of the local OP communities to begin the new year. This year the annual study day was held on January 12th.

The Dominican Missionary Preaching Team (DMPT) began the tradition of holding a day of study. The DMPT continues as sponsors for this event. Laity, friars, sisters and visitors from Austin, San Antonio, Rockdale, Waco & Dallas spent the day listening to fr. John Lyden as he led the group in studying and praying together. A unique feature of this annual day of study is that Spanish-speaking members of the local OP family attend along with their English speaking family members. Simultaneous English to Spanish translation is provided by fr. Pat Rearden. This year's theme was on Reconciliation. Fr. John presented several sessions on this topic with time provided for group discussion. Lunch is always provided by members of the local lay communities. This day is always a special time for OP family members to come together to study and pray.



Left to Right: (Seated) Shirley Opiela, Marta Bran, Dora Hansen, Maria Giles, Christina Krueger, Carmen Castillo and Elsa Ramirez (seated) back foreground

VERITAS CHAPTER

by *Dr. Jim Brown, OP*

NEW ORLEANS, LA The Veritas chapter of New Orleans continues its monthly meeting. Every month we are still reviewing and presenting an article from the Theology For The Laity series published in The Rosary Confraternity's quarterly magazine. These articles cover the whole gamut of our rich theological tradition. We also just finished a review of our new Rule and Directory. This was edifying for all of us as well as our two inquirers. We are also going to continue our "Dominican Dimension" each month by covering a famous Dominican from Sr. Darcey's Dominican Family book. As always, our meeting begins with Evening Prayer and ends with a short prayer (or rosary if time permits) followed by a social.

At last month's Laity Provincial Council meeting, representatives of St. Anthony's, St Dominic's, Veritas, Heart of Jesus, and Rosaryville chapters met to tend to the business of our region and to elect officers for our regional council. Col. Jo Ann Coterman OP was elected Secretary, Dr. Pat Jordan, OP was elected Moderator, and yours truly was elected Vice Moderator. This regional council will function to coordinate the various regional activities throughout the year that we all enjoy.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

by *Mrs. Joyce Cornibe, OP*

NEW ORLEANS, LA The following members of the St. Dominic Chapter are celebrating an anniversary of 5, 10, 15, or 20 years as professed Dominicans. Yvonne Blount-Davis, and Gregory and Maureen Wright are celebrating 5 years, while Louise de Gruy and Jeanne Manthey's 20 year anniversaries are this year. Congratulations! We are praying for you!



CHAPTER NEWS

ST. JOSEPH CHAPTER *by Sister Gloria Hillman, OP*

SARASOTA, FL We are proud to announce that the members of our Novitiate are very active. It is through their efforts that we have a newly designed recruitment brochure which has been displayed in most of the churches in the area. It is because of the enthusiasm of these members who want to tell the “good news” about our Chapter, that many things are happening.

On Feb. 15, our entire Dominican Laity Group worked as a community in every aspect of planning for the arrival of Sister Nancy Murray, OP (Adrian). Each one of us had a role to play in seeing that St. Thomas More Church was filled beyond our expectation for the presentation of the live performance of St. Catherine of Siena by Sister Nancy. Believe it or not, people are still talking about the experience which made us happy to know that our beloved St. Catherine came to “new life.”

A month later, on March 13th Fr. Jerry Austin, OP (St. Martin de Porres) was the main celebrant for our Mass and

Cont'd from last column

Ceremony of Commitment. His homily on “Commitment”, was coincidental for the readings of the day. The day was chosen long before we looked at the readings! Following the homily, we welcomed Mrs. Jeanette Ayala as she renewed her Temporary Commitment. Mr. Stephan Bickford, Ms. Nancy Fusillo and Mr. Wayne Thomas made Temporary Commitment for the first time and Dr. James Tinnen was fully accepted in the Rite of Perpetual Commitment. Following this commitment ceremony, the Litany of Dominican Saints was chanted by Fr. Jerry and the Liturgy continued.

The Program was typed by Mrs. Rosemary Testa, OP and we were reminded of the death on Dec. 22, 2007, of Mrs. Nancy Harrington, OP. Following the ceremony, about 20 of us went to dinner at a local restaurant to continue the festivities.

At our April Meeting we will surface names for the election which will take place in May.

SPECIAL FEATURE

PUBLICATION OF THE BOOKLET BY OUR DUTCH DOMINICAN BROTHERS

*Fr. Edward Ruane, OP
Vicar to the Master of the Order*

28 January 2008

As we know from the Acts of the Apostles, the question of ministry in the Christian Community has been a challenge from biblical days when the early Church instituted the Order of Deacon. Still in our own day, the question of adequate ministry to God's People continues to be a question to which the Church responds in diverse ways in different parts of the world.

The Eastern Church has always had both a married clergy alongside a celibate clergy. In the Western Church there has been a lengthy tradition of only celibate priests. Church authority has reaffirmed this tradition on several different occasions. Nevertheless, this tradition continues to be questioned by some, especially when this tradition apparently prevents the wider celebration of the Eucharist, which is essential to the life of the Christian Community. Nevertheless, in both the Eastern and Western Churches ordination is essential.

The shortage of vocations to the Ordained Priesthood is pressing, particularly in some parts of the world. It is right for the Church Community to be concerned about this shortage. Our Dutch Dominican brothers share this grave concern and desire to dialogue about it. Perhaps they feel that Church authority has not adequately dealt with this question and, therefore, they are pressing for a more open dialogue.

The booklet published by our Dutch brothers was a surprise to the General Curia of the Dominican Order. While we laud the concern of our brothers, we do not believe that the method they have used in disseminating this booklet, nor the solutions that they have proposed are beneficial to the Church nor in harmony with its tradition. While we share their concern about the availability of the Eucharist and priestly ministry, we believe this concern must be responded to in careful theological and pastoral reflection with the wider Church and Dominican Order.

Editor's Note: The Dutch Dominicans proposed, in the pamphlet, that in the absence of ordained clergy that the laity should be allowed to celebrate Holy Mass.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S PAGES

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Southern Province Dominican Laity	http://www.southerndominicanlaity.org
Eastern Province Dominican Laity	http://www.3op.org
Western Province Dominican Laity	http://www.laydominicanswest.org
Parable Conference	http://www.parableconference.org
DomLife	http://www.domlife.org
fr. Paul Hinnebusch	http://www.frpaulhinnebusch.org
fr. Matt Robinson	http://www.unbornperson.org
Southern Province of St. Martin de Porres	http://www.opsouth.org
LUMINARIA	http://luminaria.infodat-llc.com
Eastern Province Bookstore	http://www.dominicanbookstore.com

MINUTES FROM THE 2008 LAY PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF THE SOUTHERN DOMINICAN LAITY

The 2008 Lay Provincial Council was held at the Dominican Conference Center in New Orleans, LA from February 28 through March 2, 2008. Thirty-five people officially connected with the Dominican Laity took part in the meeting including both delegates and observers from the pro-chapters and chapters in the Southern lay Province. Fr. Marty Gleeson OP, Prior Provincial of the Southern Dominican Province, fr. Carl Trutter OP, and Sr. Ann Willits OP also visited with us.

The theme of the meeting was “Serving Jesus by Serving Others as Dominicans”. “Leadership is service” was emphasized throughout the sessions and open dialogue was encouraged. Morning and Evening Prayers were prayed in community with a member of the Dominican Laity providing a lay preaching after the Scripture reading. Lay preachers included Mr. J. Scott Farris, OP, Mrs. Druscilla Chauffe, OP, Mrs. Maureen Wright, OP, and Dr. Lanie LeBlanc, OP. Mrs. Druscilla Chauffe, OP provided leadership in our songs.

Sr. Ann Willits, a Sinsinawa Dominican Sister, gave a spirited talk about “Dominican Spirituality in the 21st Century” followed by a question and answer session. Some of her main points for us as Dominican Laity included encouragement to:

1. Proclaim the authentic Gospel of Jesus Christ in many different ways as we are called
2. Live the apostolic life of unity, indefatigable journeying, and voluntary poverty
3. Insert ourselves into the ministry and mission of the Church, and
4. Provide structures for ourselves by which we govern ourselves according to the Dominican tradition.

Sister Annie challenged us to “build bridges” among people and to ask ourselves repeatedly “Who is the God you preach?”

Our Provincial Promoter of the Dominican Laity, fr. John Lydon, OP, gave a brief history of preaching including a doctrinal/dogmatic perspective, a focus on preaching about the human condition, and preaching based on Scripture. He emphasized Dominic as Preacher and many other historically noteworthy Dominican preachers as well. He also shared some of the methods and resources that he uses when preparing his homilies. fr. John celebrated Mass on Friday, the Mass of the Holy Spirit with us on Saturday evening prior to provincial elections, and also Mass on Sunday prior to our departure.

Mr. Bruce Trigo, OP, Provincial Moderator, convened the opening session of the meeting on Thursday evening. Miss Cynthia Donnelly, OP, Provincial Vice-Moderator, offered the opening prayer. There was ample time for introductions and fellowship as well as the hard work that marked our time together throughout the extended weekend. The initial ice-breaker activity plus the focus on the highlights of our reports brought lively conversation and revealed some common needs. Ideas were shared on obtaining committed members rather

Cont'd Page 13

than just increasing our numbers, the call and variety of ways for laity to preach, and enlisting Dominican Spiritual Promoters for our chapters and pro-chapters.

Throughout our meeting, the voting members of the Lay Provincial Council, as the governing body of the Southern Dominican Laity in our Province, made some important decisions, assessed the priorities for 2005-2008 and then set new priorities for 2008-2010, and passed resolutions. These new Decisions, Priorities, and Resolutions will be included on our web site shortly and should command particular attention when reviewing the procedures and accomplishments of this meeting.

Several topics received considerable attention and discussion during this time. Miss Cynthia Donnelly, OP reviewed the history of policies, procedures, and resources on the Formation Program within the Province including the extensive work done by the Formation Committee in 2002-3. Dr. Lanie LeBlanc, OP reported the results of the Formation Surveys that were submitted to the Executive Council in 2007. It was repeated that it was a mandate approved by the Lay Provincial Council of 2002 to teach the approved topics to Inquirers and Candidates, and not just a suggestion. It was agreed that not to take this aspect of Dominican Life seriously was an injustice to those who seek incorporation into the Dominican Family and that a solid Formation Program for Inquirers and Candidates must be provided in order to verify readiness for profession. A continued program of study should also be provided for all those who are professed.

It was decided that all of the chapters, pro-chapters, and beginning groups should send a revised and completed copy of the Formation Survey to the Executive Council through the new Lay Provincial Secretary no later than July 1, 2008. (Mrs. Theresa Alvarez, OP, was elected; her address follows.) A copy of the initial Formation Survey that was sent in as well as blank new forms were given to each chapter, pro-chapter, and beginning group represented at the meeting. These blank forms will be included with a copy of the minutes to those chapters, pro-chapters, and beginning groups who were not represented. A follow-up call by a member of the newly elected Executive Council will be made to those Moderators not in attendance.

Discussion continued about how to standardize the formation for Inquirers and Candidates in our Province within a reasonable length of time since having a solid program in place was of such importance. Discussion of the formation materials from the lay Eastern and Western Provinces included both advantages and disadvantages. A Formation Committee will be formed to review the revised materials from the Eastern Province for compatibility with the approved topics for Inquiry and Candidacy from our Province. A finished product for Inquiry is expected within 6 months and a finished product for Candidacy is expected within 9 months. These products will then be reviewed by the Executive Committee for a final decision and proposal for implementation throughout our lay Province.

There was also much discussion about ways to promote more effective communication within the lay Province. Each chapter, pro-chapter, and beginning group should have a governing council. The contact information for all of those local council members, including e-mail addresses whenever possible, must be on file with the Lay Provincial Secretary. It was decided that communication from the Executive Council should be sent to all of the local council members and not just to the Moderator as a way to promote interacting as a communication team. A form for that purpose will be available on the web site. The form should be sent immediately to: Mrs. Theresa Alvarez, OP, Lay Provincial Secretary

706 Dyer Street
Rockdale, TX 76567

Please update this information immediately when there are any changes or new elections occur.

Other matters of communication were also discussed. The new Declarations of the Master of the Order, which the Dominican Laity worldwide are bound to follow, will be added as an Appendix to our Directory. A

Directory Committee will be formed to review the proposals and suggestions from the International Congress of Lay Fraternities. The committee will report their findings to the new Executive Committee.

It was decided that in early summer of each year, the printout of the census information on file for each pro-chapter, chapter, and beginning group will be sent to the Moderator along with a reminder of the provincial dues that become due during the month of July. A reminder without the forms will be sent to the other local council members. This yearly census information should be returned, corrected and updated, with the yearly dues to the Provincial Treasurer. The recent Declarations of the Master reminded us that archives and records of contact information, stages of formation, and professions are to be kept at the Provincial level.

Ease of communication through various technologies was also discussed. An updated web page with password access to these census records was suggested. It was decided that mailing paper/hard copies of our newsletter was an exorbitant expense especially with increased postal rates and fees for returned copies due to inaccurate addresses. On-line copies of Luminaria will now be the standard way of receiving the newsletter. It may be printed directly from the web site and duplicated for those who do not have personal on-line access. A Moderator may request one free paper/hard copy of each issue. The question of forming regions was again brought to discussion. Communication with other members of the Dominican Family is also important. Dr. John Patrick Jordan OP gave a brief report on the workings of the International Dominican Foundation, highlighting the many activities of our brothers and sisters worldwide. A Communications/ Media/Technology Committee will be formed to investigate additional ways of facilitating communication throughout the Province and the Dominican Family through teleconferencing, networking, e-mail, and the updated web site.

Lay Preaching was a topic of discussion throughout the meetings. Several delegates shared their chapter's activities, both in common and individually, on this topic. Suggestions included a regional retreat with in-house lay preaching, lay preaching during the annual retreat, and contacting speakers throughout the year who can provide support, training in specific skills, and coaching for those called to preach to small groups. The discussion included several topics such as where one might preach, what appropriate topics might be addressed, and when opportunities might present themselves. Written preaching and preaching to groups seem less common for lay preachers than one-on-one preaching in particular circumstances. It was decided that the Executive Council will appoint a Lay Promoter of Preaching for the lay Province. The need for addressing the particular needs of a growing bilingual population, both Hispanics and the Vietnamese, in our Province was also discussed in terms of lay preaching, recruitment, and formation. A Bilingual Committee will be formed to address these concerns.

An important aspect of lay preaching as Dominicans is attention to the issues of Peace, Justice, and the Care of Creation. Our Provincial Promoter, Mr. J. Scott Farris OP, presented a document forming a Lay Commission on Peace, Justice, and Care of Creation for our Province comprised of a contact person from each of our chapters, pro-chapters, and beginning groups. Through each contact person, a three year plan will be presented to include specific training in the aspects of Catholic Social Teaching, independent research by each chapter, pro-chapter, and group to discern through the four pillars what God's call for action might be, and, finally, how to implement each local plan. Long range goals for the entire Province were also discussed. Various methods of technology will be used to facilitate this training as well as communication among contact people. Those who wish to be designated as the contact person for this initiative should contact Scott directly at jscottfarris@charter.net. The revised Charter for Peace, Justice, and Care of Creation will be available shortly on our web site.

The formulation and approval of a three year budget for 2008 - 2010 necessitated a formal assessment of the 2005-2008 Priorities and the setting of new Priorities for 2008 - 2010. Many of the items listed as former priorities were already addressed in previous conversations and decisions as described above. Additional comments were made to remember our elderly members as prayer members and to continue visitations throughout the

Province. Attention to our own spiritual renewal, both as individuals and as members of a chapter, pro-chapter, or beginning group, was reaffirmed. The new Priorities for 2008 - 2010 will be available shortly on our web site.

The budget for the past three years was reviewed and a new budget for next three years was proposed by Treasurer Mr. William Malloy, OP. The impact of Hurricane Katrina on our Province was substantial, individually to many members and jointly to all of us. Katrina prevented many of our activities from occurring, thus saving substantial expenditure of funds. In addition, new proposals, especially those concerning communication via electronic means necessitated the revision of what was proposed. Considerable discussion was conducted about the need for local and provincial fund raising efforts to supplement the funds acquired from yearly dues. The importance of each chapter and pro-chapter being responsible for sending yearly dues in a timely manner was stressed. Fund raising by local groups was encouraged as a way to collect provincial dues; several groups shared their efforts at such fund raising by conducting a raffle of donated items and by group apostolates such as selling decoupage plaques, tamales, and Dominican bookmarks, profession plaques, and keychains. A Financial Development Committee will be formed to investigate fund raising initiatives, obtaining 501c status under the Province of Friars, and other measures to improve our own sustainability. The approved revised budget for 2008 - 2010 will be sent to Moderators.

The observance of the Four Pillars of Dominican Life during our time together provided a solid basis for the nominations, discussions, deliberations, and elections of officers for the 2008 - 2010 Provincial Executive Council. As mentioned, this important event was preceded by the Mass of the Holy Spirit. The Counting Committee included Kevin Hanlon, Kevin Sanderson, and John Patrick Jordan. The results of elections are as follows.

Nominations for Provincial Moderator included Bruce Trigo and Cynthia Donnelly. Cynthia Donnelly asked that her nomination be recinded. Bruce Trigo was elected as Provincial Moderator by acclamation.

Nominations for Vice-Moderator included Scott Farris, Cynthia Donnelly, Jim Brown, John Patrick Jordan, Lanie LeBlanc, Jimmy Davis, and Theresa Alvarez. Cynthia Donnelly, Jim Brown, and John Patrick Jordan asked that their nominations be recinded. The persons who nominated Cynthia and Jim agreed, but John Patrick Jordan's name was left in nomination. J. Scott Farris was elected as Provincial Vice -Moderator on the 4th ballot.

Nominations for Provincial Secretary included JoAnn Cotterman, Cindy Martinez, Theresa Alvarez, Druscilla Chauffe, and Donna Woods. Dru Chauffe asked that her nomination be recinded. Theresa Alvarez was elected as Provincial Secretary on the 4th ballot.

Nominations for Provincial Treasurer included William Malloy. William Malloy was elected Provincial Treasurer by acclamation.

The officers were installed on Sunday morning as part of the concluding Mass. All present also affirmed their commitment to bring the work of the 2008 Lay Provincial Council to their local chapters, pro-chapters, and beginning groups. Miss Cynthia Donnelly, OP, former Provincial Vice-Moderator is returning to graduate studies; Dr. Lanie LeBlanc OP, former Provincial Secretary, will be moving to Seattle, Washington with her family. Both were given books in appreciation for their leadership and service. All those who worked before and during the council meeting and liturgies were thanked for their service. The meeting was concluded and hugs were shared by all before departing.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Lanie LeBlanc, OP
outgoing Lay Provincial Secretary
on behalf of and approved by the Executive Committee
March 19, 2008
Feast of St. Joseph

SPECIAL FEATURE

Dr. Leblanc is the outgoing provincial secretary. She gave this reflection at the recent Lay Provincial Council meeting in New Orleans. It was so timely, I thought it should be shared with all of you.

Note: This was the final Scripture reflection given by a member of the laity at the 2008 Lay Provincial Council, a “sending forth” if you will, for all Dominican Laity.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 6: 1-4a

“We beg you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, “In an acceptable time I have heard you; on a day of salvation, I have helped you.” Now is the acceptable time ! Now is the day of salvation ! We avoid giving anyone offense, so that our ministry may not be blamed. On the contrary, in all that we do, we strive to present ourselves as ministers of God..”

+

For the last twelve plus years, I have been a Preacher of the Word, writing a weekly Scripture reflection on-line for Preachers’ Exchange Volume II and as the Formation Director for my pro-chapter. The words I speak come from my heart, but they are not really my words at all. They were given to me by my parents, my education, and my life experiences, all of which I received, as St. Paul says in this Scripture passage, by “the grace of God”. St. Paul said elsewhere that “By the grace of God, I am who I am.” It takes all of about 5 minutes of talking with me to figure out who I am, whether it be at the grocery store or in my home. My words clearly identify me as a baptized Christian, a faithful Catholic, and a Dominican.

Although you might not be as outgoing as I am or a writer, the very same holds true for you. We, individually and collectively, have been graced and marked as children of God. We have been charged with a baptismal call, given a mandate as laity, and responded to a vocation as Dominicans. Whatever we say and do, positive or negative, both our words and actions become neon signs that we are Christians, Catholics, and Dominicans.

Each of you have probably experienced a similar moment of awe as I have : you know, that time when you knew that you knew that God worked through you. You may not remember what you said or why things just clicked, but you know for sure that God brought someone closer to Him by what you said or did. Remember that? To me, that is the definition of Dominican joy. You probably also have experienced a similar moment of anguish when you looked at yourself in the mirror or sunk into your prayer chair or thought in the confessional “Lord, what was I thinking” and shook your head to your own answer, “I wasn’t thinking at all”.

Thankfully, we “do not receive the grace of God in vain”. God forgives me and God forgives you for the times in which the messenger was highlighted and the Message was not. God guides us and lifts us up, over and over, so that as St. Paul says: “in all that we do, we strive to present ourselves as ministers of God.”

So today, what kind of ministers of the Word are we? More importantly, what kind of minister of the Word will we be tomorrow, “the day of salvation”, wherever it is that we let people know who we are and Whose we are? Let us remember that even though we may often wear black and white, we are God’s neon signs .

Dr. Lanie LeBlanc OP 3/1/08

JUSTICE PEACE AND THE CARE OF CREATION



Mr. J. Scott Farris,
OP
Vice-Provincial
Moderator

During the past three years as lay promoter for peace, justice, and care of creation, I have had the pleasure of connecting with a wide variety of individuals involved with the JPCC movement. Most of these encounters were very educational; however some, in addition to being great learning experiences, presented challenges that deserved prayer and attention.

In response to these challenges, I presented the 2008 Lay Provincial Council with a JPCC Charter proposal. This charter calls for the establishment of a lay provincial commission on Peace, Justice, and Care for Creation. (This charter was ratified by the LPC.) Each group and / or chapter is to provide one representative who will participate in a three year program designed to bring forth a list of issues from within our province that deserve attention. Once this list of opportunities is created, each group will discern which, if any, action(s) will become part of their Dominican “mission.” We will also collectively discern one action that will become a provincial wide action.

Our hope as a commission is to become prophetic- to challenge unjust situations with the message of the Gospel, by word and by deed. We also hope to be pragmatic- to work in solidarity with others to transform those parts of our lives, our Church, our society and our world that do not contribute to the building of the Kingdom of justice, peace, and love. We will become involved in monitoring developments globally that affect us locally. Through utilization of the four pillars of Dominican life, we aim to conduct research, provide information, service, and support, and collaborate with others who serve the cause of Justice and Peace.

Beginning in April 2008, we will gather by teleconference monthly to study the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching. This study will form the foundation of all our work as a commission. The second year (2009) will be spent discerning opportunities for peace and justice action in local areas. Year three (2010) will see the implementation of JPCC actions.

Ultimately, our work as a commission will result in accomplishing several goals:

- We will create a body of work and accomplishment that will speak out against injustices in our province;
- By relying on the four pillars, we will actively participate in the holy preaching of the Dominican charism;
- We will create a greater sense of “community within a community”;
- We will make ourselves visible to others that may be discerning a vocation to lay Dominican life.

At the end of our three year period, we will also have created a collection of study materials and experiences that can be retooled into a training program which could be made available to other lay communities, parishes, and groups, thus becoming yet one more avenue of holy preaching.

Each delegate of the 2008 LPC will be provided with a copy of the charter. There are still groups / chapters that have not designated a representative. If you are interested in participating in this project, please notify your moderator or LPC delegate.

SEE THE JUSTICE, PEACE AND CARE OF CREATION CHARTER FOR THE PROVINCE, SUBMITTED BY MR. SCOTT FARRIS, OP, ON THE NEXT PAGES.

JUSTICE PEACE AND THE CARE OF CREATION



*Southern Dominican Laity
Province of St. Martin de Porres, USA*

*Lay Commission on Peace, Justice,
And Care of Creation*

This charter amended and ratified by the 2008 Lay Provincial Council.

Introduction

The Commission is comprised of dedicated men and women of the lay Province of St. Martin (Southern Dominicans.) Our task is to work for peace by achieving justice, particularly through structural reform and social action. The Commission operates by authority of the lay Provincial Council and under the supervision of the Lay Executive Council of the Southern Dominican Province.

Our Hopes

Our first hope is to be prophetic – to challenge unjust situations with the message of the Gospel, by word and by deed.

Our second hope is to be pragmatic – to work in solidarity with others to transform those parts of our lives, our Church, our society and our world that do not contribute to the building of the Kingdom of justice, peace, and love.

Our Aims

- To work for justice in social structures.
- To seek to work in conjunction with the victims of social injustice.
- To provide information, support, and opportunities for social action for people of the church in their mission to give first concern to the poor, the powerless and oppressed members of society.
- To provide opportunities for educating the Catholic community in the social doctrine of the Church.
- To provide a Christian context for the research and analysis of social issues where structural injustices occur.
- To help spread the Gospel message of justice throughout the lay Province and wider community.

Our Actions

We are involved in monitoring developments globally that affect us locally. Through utilization of the four pillars of Dominican life, we aim to conduct research, provide information, service and support, and collaborate with other individuals and groups who serve the cause of Justice and Peace.

Cont'd Page 23

JUSTICE PEACE AND THE CARE OF CREATION

Cont'd from Page 22

Our Commitment

We are committed to the empowerment of and empowerment by, individuals and groups with specific interests, skills, and experience in working for justice and peace through the major themes of Catholic Social Teaching: Life and Dignity of the Human Person, Participation: The Call to Family and Community; Rights and Responsibilities; The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers; Solidarity; and Care for God's Creation.

Our Functions

We will observe, judge through social analysis and theological reflection, and act on justice and peace issues with dependence upon prayer, study, and contemplation.

We will work to raise awareness within our provincial community of the problems of injustice resulting from our study and research.

We will work to develop and promote models for social action for unjust situations.

We will work to stimulate and support the establishment of local Catholic social justice groups within the lay Dominican Province, and to support individual and group initiatives.

We will work in collaboration with other religious, civic, and professional organizations similarly concerned with justice.

We will monitor the development and implementation of public policy as it affects social justice.

When necessary and / or appropriate, we will make public statements in consideration of particular social issues.

We will work to act as a forum within the Church, our lay Province, and the wider community.

Our Process

We will meet monthly via cyber meetings to implement a three tier / three year program, as follows:

Year One (2008) 9 Month program developing an understanding of Catholic Social Teaching (Prayer and Study)

Year Two (2009) 12 Month program discerning opportunities for justice and peace action in local areas / provincial wide (Prayer, Study, Contemplation)

Year Three (2010) Implementation of justice and peace actions in each group / chapter as well as one action provincial wide (Prayer, Study, Contemplation, Mission)

Cont'd Page 24

JUSTICE PEACE AND THE CARE OF CREATION

Cont'd from Page 23

Ultimately, our work as a commission will result in accomplishing several goals:

- We will create a body of work and accomplishment that will speak out against injustices in our province.
- By relying on the four pillars, we will actively participate in the holy preaching of the Dominican charism.
- We will create a greater sense of “community within a community”.
- We will make ourselves visible to others that may be discerning a vocation to lay Dominican life.

At the end of our three year period, we will also have created a collection of study materials and experiences that can be retooled into a training program which could be made available to other lay communities, parishes, and groups, thus becoming yet one more avenue of holy preaching and potentially a source of revenue for our lay province.



COMING IN APRIL: THE SPRING 2008 ISSUE OF THE PARABLE: DOMINICAN THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY !

This publication seeks to create space in which Dominicans from different parts of the Family can engage in thoughtful, meaningful, and respectful conversations about significant issues and ideas to further the preaching mission. It is particularly useful for group reflection.

Spring 2008 Theme: Dominican Spirituality & Justice

Editors: Patricia Walter, OP and Mark Wedig, OP

Lead Article: John Allard, OP

Artwork: Thoma Swanson, OP

Excerpt: "...Social justice and spirituality [are] intersecting replies to a need that lies deep within us: the need for our human hearts, individually and collectively, to be alive."

Copies of The Parable are \$6 each, or \$5 each when you order 10 or more. Shipping and handling charges will be added. Reserve your copy today by calling our office (708.366.1730) or visiting our website www.parableconference.org.

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WE'VE MOVED, PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW INFORMATION:

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DOMINICAN LAITY RETREAT

June 6-8, 2008

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Street

Apartment

City

State

Zip Code

Phone: Home (____) _____ Business (____) _____ Cell (____) _____
Area Area Area

e-mail _____

Please check one of the following: _____ Overnight _____ Commuter

Overnight: Registration Fee: \$15.00 + Lodging/Meals \$120.00 = Total Due \$135.00

I wish to room with _____
I wish to suite with _____ and _____

Commuter: Registration fee : \$15.00 + Meals: \$60.00 = Total due: \$75.00

A non-refundable deposit of \$25.00 is to be mailed as soon as possible
with the *balance to be paid no later than May 23, 2008.*

Please make checks payable to **Rosaryville Spirit Life Center** and mail to
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LUMINARIA GUIDELINES AND DEADLINES

JULY-SEPTEMBER, 2008

Deadline June 1, 2008

OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 2008

Deadline September 1, 2008

JANUARY-MARCH, 2009

Deadline December 1, 2008

APRIL-JUNE, 2009

Deadline March 1, 2009

Articles may be submitted in Microsoft Word and in Corel Word Perfect to luminaria@infodat-llc.com or may be mailed to LUMINARIA, 1419 Watts Ave. Katy, TX 77493

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION

For the rites of admission and profession:

- I. WHO:
 - A. NAMES OF INQUIRERS (Optional)
 - B. NAMES OF THOSE BEING ADMITTED
 - C. NAMES OF THOSE MAKING FIRST PROFESSION
 - D. NAMES OF THOSE MAKING PERMANENT PROFESSION
 - E. NAMES OF PARTICIPATING CHAPTER OFFICIALS
 - F. NAME OF THE CELEBRANT
- II. WHAT:
 - A. IS ALREADY DETERMINED; GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE RITES
- III. WHEN:
 - A. DAY, MONTH AND YEAR
 - B. TIME OF DAY
- IV. WHERE:
 - A. NAME OF CHURCH OR CHAPEL
 - B. GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PLACE

For Chapter activities, again the “who,” “what,” “when,” and “where” are critical; an outcome, if the activity was completed, is also necessary. If the activity is an on-going one, please submit periodic updates.

There will be special columns for our Dominican Brothers and Sisters of all orders:

- A. A prayer list for those who are ill
- B. A prayer list and memoriam for those who have gone to their heavenly rest.

Again, we will need names and dates for the submissions.

Pictures may be included with any article. Due to the expense of reproducing color images, all pictures will be rendered into black and white. The persons in the photographs must be identified, i.e., left to right and/or 1st row second row, etc. Digital images make the best copy but others can be scanned into a digital format for reproduction.

All articles and any accompanying photographs may be cropped and/or rearranged as space and format dictates.

All photographic submissions are subject to approval by the editorial board as to content and applicability.

The editorial board will also exercise discretion over submissions as to content, grammar, length and rhetoric; All submissions become the property of LUMINARIA and its editorial board and will not be returned.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FORMAT THE ARTICLES OR PICTURES AND DO NOT SEAL ANY MATERIALS IN PROTECTIVE COVERS FROM WHICH THEY CANNOT BE REMOVED.

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FAILURE TO ABIDE BY ANY OF THESE REQUIREMENTS MAY RESULT IN YOUR ARTICLE BEING DISCARDED.



THIS COLUMN IS RESERVED FOR OUR DOMINICAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE DEPARTED THIS LIFE AND HAVE RETURNED TO OUR GOD.

ST. ROSE OF LIMA, SAN ANTONIO

Mrs. Leola Bagby, OP

Mrs. Margaret Curran, OP

Mrs. Lucilla Rosas, OP

Mr. Rafael Avila, OP

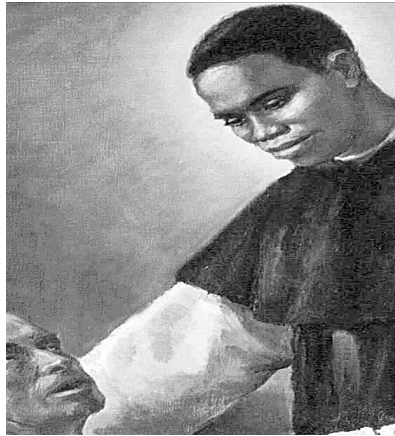
Miss Mary Virginia Clarkson, OP

Mr. Armando Arguello, OP

Mrs. Mary Irma ferrell, OP

Mrs. Ethel Jones Mother of Jimmy Davis of the Veritas Chapter New Orleans

May the divine assistance remain always with us and may the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.



ST. MARTIN de PORRES

THIS COLUMN IS RESERVED FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTER WHO ARE ILL AND HAVE REQUESTED PRAYERS.

Deloras "Dee" Ethridge Rosaryville Chapter-Cancer

←—————→
ST. ROSE OF LIMA-SAN ANTONIO

Mrs. Martha Medrano Garcia, OP

Mrs. Leonor Arredondo

Mrs. Maria de Lua "MariLuz" Gutierrez, OP

Mr. Gerard Elizando, OP

Mrs. Maria Gregoria "Greg" McKinney, OP

Mrs. Olga T. Trevino, OP

Mrs. Mary Martinez, OP

Mr. Jose Alfaro, OP

←—————→
Teresa Maurer inquirer in Houston

←—————→
Ava Smith Veritas Chapter New Orleans Surgery

We pray for our brothers and sisters in distress

SAINTS' CORNER

ON PREACHING

"You are a candle worthily set on the candlestick of the Church; from your seven branched lamp you pour out light, nourished by the oil of joy, far and wide over Catholic cities. You dispel the mist of heretics however thick it lies, and with the brilliance of your brightening words uncover the light of truth from the disorder of darkness."

PAULINUS OF NOLA

"That the preaching of these men was indeed divine is clearly brought home to us when we consider how else could twelve men uneducated men, we lived on lakes and rivers and wastelands, get the idea for such an immense enterprise? How could men who perhaps had never been in a city or a public forum think of setting out to do battle with the whole world?"

JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

"Happy the man whose words issue from the Holy Spirit and not from himself"

ANTHONY OF PADUA



DOMINICANA MICHELANGELO BUONARROTI

The Last Judgment

The Commission

The idea of commissioning an enormous fresco, the largest ever painted in that century, depicting the Last Judgment, was probably suggested to Clement VII by the traumatic events that were undermining the unity of Christians at the time. After the pope's death, on September 25, 1534, and only two days after Michelangelo's arrival in Rome, his successor, Paul III Farnese confirmed the commission to Michelangelo, and in April 1535 scaffolding was put up in front of the altar wall.

All that had happened in the church in the years that preceded the Judgment, including the Reformation and the Sack of Rome, had a direct influence on the work's conception: painted on the altar wall, the Last Judgment was to represent humanity face to face with salvation.

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MISSION/PREACHING

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