

January 2007

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Letter from our President

Thanks, maybe, to the ancient Babylonians for introducing the custom of New Year's resolutions. I am not sure whom we should thank for the equally prevalent custom of breaking most of these resolutions before the month has ended.

Historically New Year's Day has been celebrated on different days, dates, and months depending on religious tradition, important historic events, and whether or not a lunar or solar calendar was followed. Most countries accepted the last revision to the solar Gregorian calendar in the late 1580's (except the British who waited until 1752), which set New Year's on January 1st. Certain groups although accepting this dating on a practical basis still retain their own celebrations based on a lunar calendar or religious observance hence Jewish, Buddhist, and Muslim celebrations throughout the year.

Regardless of the day, date or month, there are common themes to all these celebrations - parades, parties, noisemakers, fireworks and such. Many of these served the same purpose from culture to culture. Noisemakers, fireworks and bell ringing drive out evil spirits. Parties and parades celebrate friendship; laughter and joy drive out sorrow. Those celebrations based on a religious creed all also have some common themes that encourage forgiving debts, reconciling with family and friends, and promises to improve some aspect of their character and so back to resolutions.

According to the many polls, the number one resolution in the United States is to "lose weight." Now if this is just not based on vanity, it may be a good and worthy goal but one that I have usually blown sky high by the time the last holiday goodie is gone. So since I have fewer and fewer years to get this right, I thought it time to put a little more effort into some simple resolutions. I read some very good Dominican publications, especially interviews with Dominican mission volunteers, and with that help came up with:

- No cabinet cleaning for food collections - nothing I myself would not eat for dinner
- Spend as much on children's aid around the world as I do for pet food and care
- Always choose good over evil

I think I might have a good shot at keeping the first two. Maybe you have something similar in mind. The third is the real challenge. To do this, one has to have a goal to live a Christ centered life, all the time, in big things and small things. It means that you have to actually do what St. Paul directed when he said to "put on Christ." Scary? Indeed! But one of these years we are going to have to get on with it. Why not 2007? In the end isn't this we are supposed to be all about?

Happy New Year!

~ Dorothy Murphy, TOP
Provincial Council President
redceltop@starpower.net

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Editor's Note: In the October issue of eLumen, Dorothy Murphy, our President explained the changing of our name from Third Order to Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic.

The two opposing views on the subject come from Gail Waterman and Mary Pat Simon



www.3op.org

What's in a Name?

In the course of a New England Region One Council meeting, held at the Mother of God Dominican Nuns Monastery, West Springfield, Massachusetts, USA, the sudden name change from Third Order to "fraternities" was declared unquestionable and irreversible. One member spoke out in behalf of those who believed as she did regarding the change. She began by stating that she was not advocating "feminism" but felt deeply offended by being referred to as a member of a "fraternity" which denotes the masculine gender only. In this day and age, especially here in the United States, the term "fraternity" is not acceptable when referring to groups having both genders. I would think a broader term, such as; "communities" would seem more appropriate and inclusive. As you know, the term, "community" is used quite frequently in all Church documents/encyclicals.

I am in the process of writing the history of our Mother of God Chapter's first 50 years. It is my goal to produce the finest and all encompassing history of the Dominican Third Order in Saint Joseph Province, USA. I introduced the history of our chapter by referring to a small booklet titled, "Spiritual Powerhouse Third Order of St. Dominic." This booklet was written by our illustrious founder and former Provincial Promoter, the Very Reverend Francis N. Wendell, O.P. (d. 1976). He said that "The Pope called them a *Tertius Ordo*, a Third Order" (p.9). Later this group was embraced by St. Dominic's friars (p. 10-11). Consequentially, I hope and pray that just as the term "Order of Preachers" never changes, so too, Saint Dominic's Third Order never changes nor be disconnected from his Dominican Family.

Saint Dominic, pray for us, your sons and daughters. Keep us united by the bonds of faith, hope and love as we daily celebrate our common heritage as Dominicans.

Your sister in St. Dominic and St. Catherine of Siena,
~Gail A. Waterman
Mother of God Chapter
W. Springfield, MA USA

~

LAY FRATERNITIES-A WELCOMING CHANGE

"The Fraternities of St. Dominic"... a change, something new, does it still reflect the true identity of the previous title "Third Order" and does it encompass the men and women presently in the Order?

Change is one element we can always rely on (God only is changeless) and in this case I feel this is a good and welcome change. I admit my first thought was "now I'm a member in a fraternity" but in investigating the word "fraternity" I found it is also defined as a "a group of people with the same beliefs" which truly defines the Lay Dominicans.

Personally, I find the title more welcoming, more approachable for new members and will unite our chapters closer in our commitment to the heritage founded by St. Dominic. In our obedience to the Master of the Order in accepting our new identity, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide us in our daily lives and help us proclaim the teachings of our faith in the spirit of St. Dominic.

~Mary Pat Simon
St. Pius V Pro-chapter
Cantonsville, MD USA

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Pedro Saavedra , St. Martin de Porres Chapter, Alexandria, VA asked...

“When a professed Lay Dominican’s health or personal and family circumstances preclude full participation, is there an official “inactive” state he can formally embrace? Is there an intermediate state where somebody can participate some, but not fully?”

These questions were discussed and answered on Region One’s Discussion Forum: <http://opne.org> If a person is inactive but is in at least some communication with their chapter, they are not to be considered inactive. They are still considered members of their chapter. The chapter should include them in their communications and prayers. Presently, there is no other option. Perhaps, it is time to reconsider the situations of so many of our brothers and sisters, who because of illness, age, move of location, situation, etc., are unable to be active members of their chapters.

Next month’s question: Are articles that we buy in the Dominican Laity’s Book Store already blessed? If not, do our Dominican crosses, pins, rosaries, etc. have to be blessed by a Dominican friar?

To answer this question, or ask a question of Faith,
email Faith at

r.f.flaherty@comcast.net



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Rule 1, the Laity and the Church

“Among the Christian faithful, men and women living in the World, in virtue of their Baptism and Confirmation, have been made partakers in the prophetic, priestly, and royal mission of our Lord Jesus Christ. They are called to make the presence of Christ alive in the midst of the peoples so that the divine message of redemption may be heard and welcomed by all everywhere.” (Vat. II, A post, Act. # 3, 3)

St. Dominic, as a man of great vision and courage rose to the challenge of his times by calling to life and service an Order of Preachers. This is true today, also. Again, as in Dominic’s time, there is a great urgency about the signs of the times. Pope Pius XII called our age, the age of the laity, and the Second Vatican Council for the first time issued a teaching document solely concerning the apostolate of the laity in the Church and society. The Council heralded the “Age of the Laity” and set in motion waves of renewal within all structures of the Church, including the Dominican Laity.

The time prior to 1960 was one in which Bishops and Priests preached, taught, and administered, and the laity were largely passive. Since Vatican II, we have a new integration, a new sharing through which every one can contribute to the exercise of our collective duties and responsibilities, as our vocation in life permits.

As a response to the Council, different movements arose such as Cursillo, Marriage Encounter, and the Charismatic Renewal within the Church. Lay people began to exercise more leadership in their parishes. Expectancy levels were raised in regards to catechesis and spiritual life and prayer.

Tradition, Canon Law, and Vatican II offered a three fold mission of the laity in God’s plan of salvation, referring to each as Priestly, Prophetic, and Kingly; in acknowledgement of ministries devoted to sanctifying, preaching and governing.

The Code of Canon Law, in addressing the priestly ministry of the laity states that “When the need warrants it, . . . lay persons, even if they are not lectors or acolytes, can supply certain of the duties, namely, to exercise the ministry of the Word, to preside over liturgical prayers, to confer Baptism, and to distribute Holy Communion.” Additionally, as necessity demands, the laity may conduct the rite of burial on behalf of the Church.

The prophetic ministry embraces the mission of preaching by which the faithful bring the Paschal mysteries of Jesus to the world. This preaching is done by words, deeds, and life. Laity are allowed to preach in a church or oratory in cases of necessity or in instances determined by the Episcopal conference. Lay persons may be chosen as missionaries for the role of catechists. The role of the Laity is most important in the arena of social communication, particularly in the use of the media, the press, film, radio, and television.

Finally, together with the priestly and prophetic ministries, the Laity serves the Church in sharing the Kingly Ministry, the mission of governing. The Code of Canon Law allows lay persons to become advocates, notaries, defenders of the bond, promoters of justice, auditors, assessors, and even judges. Lay persons often serve on diocesan and parish pastoral councils and finance committees in consultative capacities.

The following sources appear throughout this article:

Apostolic Exhortation, (Christifideles Laici), 1988.

Code of Canon Law 1983

John Paul II, The Lay members of Christ’s Faithful People – 1988

Dogmatic Constitution of the Church

Decree on the Means of Social Communication

Huels, John. The Faithful of Christ, the New Canon Law for the Laity. Chicago: Franciscan Herald Press, 1983.

Aumann, Jordan, OP. On the Front Lines, The Lay Person in the Church After Vatican II. 1990.



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Ray Biszko, the Moderator of Region One, has started New England Regional web site with information and links to help us study or pray the Liturgy of the Hours. One unique aspect of this web site is the ability for members of the New England Region to engage in a forum discussing regional. Post your thoughts on formation, Siena Circles, or the change to "Fraternities of Saint Dominic."

Go to:

<http://www.opne.org>

and register with your real name and choose a password. Then forward your user name to Ray Bisko at rbiszko@msn.com to activate your account. This forum is in its infancy, but the potential to communicate via the Internet and create an on-line community dialog for Dominicans is a reason for joy.



www.3op.org

Region One

Faith Flaherty, TOP

r.f.flaherty@comcast.net

Mother of God Chapter, Springfield, MA - celebrated the 8th Centenary of the Dominican Nuns who were founded by St. Dominic in 1206. Also, we celebrated a Mass in which we offered gifts to mothers expecting the birth of a child, to help celebrate the birth of Jesus. Thinking of potential births, please be aware that Massachusetts Citizens for Life is trying to support legislation to block experimentation on embryos. These embryos have the potential of being born as a human person if they are nurtured in the womb and given birth.

We also welcomed Bill Lynch from St. Mary's chapter in New Haven to share with us about community and indeed we celebrated community with the Christmas Raffle and refreshments provided by Elaine Trottier, Val and Shirley Hebert, Bea Rush and all of our kitchen helpers. We are thankful to Laura Giuggio for coordinating the Christmas Raffle. In the past, proceeds from the Christmas raffle have given us the means to provide a Christmas gift to the Dominican Nuns and a donation the Springfield Council of Churches, Emergency Fuel Fund. Mary Ellen Stroud mestroud@gogtt.net

Bl. Margaret of Castello Pro-Chapter, Lewiston, ME celebrated their Christmas meeting with sharing special poems and stories for Advent. This sharing was in lieu of a Christmas gift exchange. A Christmas pot luck brunch was also enjoyed. Our apostolates are progressing well. Denise Mailhot continues with Little Rock Scripture Study. Jeanne Ouellette continues with her intercessory prayer ministry, and related some of the wonderful results she has seen from God. Ron Carrier is excited about becoming the Area Leader for the Cursillo community. He also has become an officer in his parish's Knights of Columbus and hopes to rejuvenate the spiritual side of his group. Plans are still underway to offer the Called and Gifted II program in January. The one-day Psalms retreat is still being planned for May. Norm Laurendeau is seeking permission to preach at the weekday Masses in the Brunswick area. He use to do this in the Central Province. Denise Mailhot has been trained as a lay presider for weekday communion services (when no priest is available for Mass) and is willing to step in as the opportunity arises.

The Chapter is studying the Pillars of Dominican Life. Postulants will begin their first session in December. Denise Mailhot deniseop3@yahoo.com

Resurrection Chapter, Casco, ME will be celebrating Christmas with a potluck luncheon and "Yankee Swap". We would like to wish a Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year to you and all the Chapters of our Region. Sister Rosalie sisterrosalie@pivot.net

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St. Martin de Porres Chapter, Natick, MA didn't want a party-type celebration for Advent. The Chapter chose to watch a video on "Mary of Nazareth: The Event that Changed History." Discussion and refreshments followed. Christmas Carols and Evening Prayer ended the day. The St. Martin de Porres Chapter wishes everyone in the Province a Merry Christmas. Pat Keeney
plk88@earthlink.net



Hope of Bethany Pro-Chapter, Sherborn, MA welcomed their spiritual promoter, Fr. Wayne Cavalier, whom they only see every other month, since he commutes from Texas. The December meeting was a Christmas celebration. Mass was not only for the chapter members, but also for the Bethany Community which serves the area prisons, and for their families, and friends. Mass was followed by a pot luck brunch. The morning ended with a Yankee Swap. The highlight of the Yankee Swap was to see the children receive gifts and help with the Swap. The Hope of Bethany Pro-Chapter wishes everyone in the Dominican Family in the Province of St. Joseph, the best of this Holy Season. ~ **Ruth Raichele Bethanyosfop@aol.com**

Our Lady of Divine Providence Chapter, Providence College, RI held a Day of Recollection on the feast day of our patroness, Our Lady of Divine Providence. Our activities were Morning Prayer, the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, and the Divine Mercy Litany. We also celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Holy Mass. Then, we enjoyed great fellowship and a delicious lunch, for which each member brought something. Throughout the day, Fr. Thomas Bernard Confer, OP presented beneficial conferences on the most appropriate theme of Divine Providence. He also shared with us a list of recommended books on the topic.

December's meeting was a Christmas meeting. We read aloud our essays on the topic of What Christmas Means to Me. Fr. Morry had suggested that we write these. He also suggested that we compile them into a booklet and distribute them for evangelism, which we plan to do. Kathy Lilla from MorningStar Christian Center in Smithfield RI provided books for sale on a table in the hallway, and many of us purchased our 2007 Christian Prayer Guides and other literature for Christmas gifts, etc. We also enjoyed Christmas cookies, cupcakes, and eggnog, along with our usual coffee and tea.

~**Laureen Petrocchi laureenann@mac.com**

Our Lady of Mercy Chapter, MCI Norfolk, MA had the best Christmas present ever, with the return of its Moderator, Ruth Raichele. Ruth had open heart surgery and had been recuperating for six weeks. Without its Moderator, the Chapter carried on with its formation. New sessions are beginning for Postulants and the Novitiate. The Chapter's Study Group, Truth and Charity presented a talk entitled, "The Four Last things." The Talk spoke about Judgment, Heaven, Purgatory, and Hell. Five different people presented each topic with one person introducing and summarizing. The Talk was so successful that the Chapter encouraged the Truth and Charity group to present the Talk to the general Catholic population. Again, it was well received.

In December, the Chapter's Spiritual Promoter, Fr. Wayne Cavalier, OP celebrated Mass. The day was Gaudete Sunday and the theme was joy. Joyous indeed!!! Our Lady of Mercy Chapter celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with the return of both its Moderator and Spiritual Promoter. Life in a Dominican Chapter doesn't get any better than that! God is good.
~ **Faith Flaherty r.f.flaherty@comcast.net**

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Region Two

Anna Donnelly, TOP

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Rose Hawthorne Pro Chapter, NY gathered to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior. We are so blessed each month to have our meeting at the home of the Dominican Sisters of Rose Hawthorne. We have the privilege of mass in their most beautiful chapel. The day started with the celebration of the Eucharist by the Very Reverend Father George Schommer, O.P. The singing of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel filled the chapel, even though we are small in number. I believe we were all caught up in the joy of the coming of Our Savior and his presence among us.

After Mass we were joined by some of the sisters and invited guests to enjoy refreshments and fellowship. Our meeting room was so beautifully decorated for the coming birth of Jesus by the sisters. Being in their home is a constant reflection of God's call to holiness and what we are all striving to be as Dominicans.

As part of this day, we were joined by, Bob Boener, Queen of the Rosary Chapter, Winniemy Callejo, Agnus Dei Pro-Chapter and guest, Winniemy, Sister Rosemarie of the Most Blessed Trinity, received her scapular during the Rite of Reception in the chapel. Three Rose Hawthorne Dominican postulants joined us for the ceremony. It was a time for reflecting back to when we stood in the same place and made our profession to walk and follow in the way of Saint Dominic. Are we living our call and being all we can for Jesus? Can these special times of grace help us to be more loving and more aware of being children of the Most High? God has called all of us and may we thank him everyday that we have answered, "Here I am Lord."

May God bless all the Members of the Fraternity of Saint Dominic and their families with peace and joy in the New Year. Mary Ann Cerreta, macandvac@juno.com

Most Holy Rosary Chapter, Newburgh, NY submitted their news in narrative form. Enjoy.

"It Is As Easy As Connecting The Dots"...

When we were young, or as parents watching our children play, we enjoyed how pictures were created in coloring books by connecting the dots. As a chapter, we were seeking for an apostolate that would serve the Newburgh community. Julia Vecchio, one of our members invited a friend, Marietta Allen, to speak at our September chapter meeting. Mrs. Allen is not (yet) a member however she is a dynamo of Catholic activity in the Hudson River Valley. One of the projects she operates is the food bank at St. Francis Assisi parish in Newburgh. This food bank provides 700 packages of food per week. Sections of Newburgh have the lowest per capita income in New York State but the highest per capita rate of violent crimes. The need for physical food was being met, but what about providing spiritual sustenance for the least of God's children. The chapter decided to utilize the resources of the St Martin De Porres' Chapter in New Hope Kentucky by purchasing their religious pamphlets of instruction, both in Spanish and English. In addition we also purchased bottles to hold holy water. In this way every food package being provided to the poor would also carry a sacramental and the Word of God. By connecting several different communities, within our Lay Dominican community and outside within the neighborhood, we were able to complete an apostolate and color it with the Love of the Lord. By collecting a few dollars a month from each member at our chapter meetings, we expect to make this one of our ongoing apostolates.



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“There Must Be A Smile On St. Dominic’s Face”

Dr. Cecil Kim is a Lay Dominican and a member of the Most Holy Rosary Chapter in Newburgh, New York. The chapter has had the benefit of his presence for the last five years, and I had the honor of rooming with him and making our final perpetual vows together during June 2005 at the Dominican Congress in Washington D.C. Dr. Kim is a distinguished Gastro-Enterologist physician who served the Newburgh area for many years. He provided medical service to the Sister of Hope in Newburgh as well as the poor at no cost. In addition he was a most generous benefactor to the Chapter and the Dominican Order. Dr. Kim retired at age 70 and you would think that after decades of service and generosity, he would relax into a life of prayer and contemplation. Instead Dr. Kim sought out a personal apostolate where he could utilize his medical skills by serving the less fortunate. He sought in the Newburgh area and in New York City for a mission in which he could provide medical care but did not find any opportunities. At our December Chapter meeting, our religious promoter Sister Regis, O.P., gave us a copy of a letter from Dr. Kim. He is serving a hospital in Kingston, Jamaica under the care of St. Theresa Parish. Jamaica is one of the poorest nations in the western hemisphere and Kingston is the poorest area in Jamaica. Dr. Kim is staying in the rectory with a Dominican priest from the English Province and they are the only two Dominicans on that island nation. The weather is hot and sultry, mosquitoes, no amenities such as air conditioning and restaurants; there were no Thanksgiving feasts there. Life is austere. This would be a hardship for any young person but imagine what it is like for a 70 year old retiree. Dr. Kim works from 6:00 AM till Noon in the diabetic/hypertensive clinic and then from 6:00 PM till 10:00 PM in the Emergency Room.

Dr Kim writes:

“So, what am I doing here apart from my family? The truth is that God stays wherever he is needed. I came to realize that our God is in action with compassion right in this place at this moment and I was called to be an ignoble part of his instrument. It is a modus operandi to sanctify self through God’s work. ...I think it’s an excellent deal; I call it the grace and mercy of God onto my soul.”

This is the season of joy and giving. We have read how St. Dominic sold his dead skins to feed the living skins. There must be a smile on St. Dominic’s face as he watches one of his Lay Dominicans at work during this season of giving.

~ Submitted by David Sutton davetop@earthlink.net



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Region Three
~Michele Kloc
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No Submissions for
January

Region Five
~Therese Errigo
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No Submissions for
January

Region Four

George Bell, TOP

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Region Four elected a **new Regional Moderator** and **new Sub-Moderator** at the October Regional meeting. **George Bell, TOP** from Holy Rosary Chapter in Camden, NJ is the new Moderator for the Region. **Marianne Jablonski, TOP** from St. Catherine of Siena Chapter in Philadelphia, PA is the new Sub-Moderator for the Region. Congratulations to you both on your election!

The out-going Regional Moderator is **Marge Tierney, TOP**. On behalf of the entire membership of Region Four, we wish to thank Marge for her years of dedicated leadership. Marge led the region for many years and through many transitions. The Holy Spirit blessed the region with Marge's style of leadership when her gentle guidance and encouragement was needed most. We wish her the best and we also wish her some much-deserved rest! But not too much rest... **Our Lady of Prouille Chapter in Elkins Park, PA** will be moving to a new home in the coming year. We're sure that the Holy Spirit has much planned for our sister in the year to come! **God Bless, Marge!**

Region Six

Kasuma "Kas" Santos, Jr.

KSantTOP@aol.com

Please keep in your prayers, **Deacon candidate, "Kas" Santos Jr., T.O.P.** as he prepares to receive the Ministry of Lector by Bishop Campbell at St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus, Ohio on **Saturday, December 16, 2006**. Kas has been a professed member since 2000 and is a member of the St. Catherine of Siena Chapter in Columbus, Ohio. In addition to having a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, Kas has received his Masters in Dogmatic Theology from Holy Apostles College and Seminary in 2005, and is near completing the first of three years in the Columbus Diocese Diaconate School of Theology. Kas ministers on weekends at Chillicothe Correctional Institute, Riverside Hospital, Villa Angela, assists the diocese of Columbus Latino Commission and is a Catechist in his Parish Religion Program. Please support Kas with your prayers so that he and his family may persevere in his journey towards the Sacrament of Holy Orders.





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International
Update

The **ICLDF** is convoking an International Congress of official representatives of the Lay Dominican Fraternities throughout the world. This Congress will be the first Congress held since Montreal in 1985. Our representative for North America, Laurie Biszko is asking for our help with donations. There is a program booklet in which you may wish to buy an "ad". Since the program booklet will become a permanent record within the Order and it is the 800th anniversary of our founding at Prouilhe, it will be nice to have individual names inscribed in the booklet. Your chapter should buy an "ad," also.

It is history in the making.

If you go to the www.laydominicancongress.org site, click on English and then go to the link for donations you will arrive at Laurie's letter and the ad form for the Congress.

You will see Fr. Gerald Stookey OP's letter also. The success of the Congress should be in your prayers.

~Thank you.

Dear members of the Dominican Family, Friends and Benefactors,

It is exciting to anticipate the International Congress where delegates from around the world will travel to Buenos Aires, Argentina to reflect on the past and plan for the future of the Laity in the Order of Preachers.

We want each of you, every member of a fraternity or chapter, each congregation, members of provinces and vicariates...every member of the Dominican Family to be united with us in prayer as we gather for this historical moment to address our role as *Companions in Preaching*. You can stay informed about the International Congress at our website:

www.laydominicancongress.org.

We also ask you to help make this International Congress possible by your support by placing an advertisement in our souvenir program booklet. These ads will provide financial support for the needy candidates who might not otherwise be able to attend and they will forever capture your greetings, best wishes, and memorial listings in the permanent record of this Congress. The ads will also help us to pay for necessary expenses to make the Congress possible, such as translation equipment and translators. I urge you to tell everyone you know about this opportunity to be supportive of the Congress. Know that you will be remembered each day in our prayers, especially at the daily liturgies during Congress itself.

Please do not be left out. Tell your fraternity/chapter members and friends about this wonderful opportunity to share in the 800th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Order and the International Congress of the Laity. Tell all your Dominican contacts in every monastery, province, congregation, and institution to join us as our *Companions in Preaching*!

Feel free to download the form provided on the site and make copies for your friends. I hope to see everyone listed in the souvenir booklet.

~Laurie Anne Biszko / ICLDF

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Teach others about the first genocide of the 21st century and inform them of what they can do to help the people of Darfur. Have an Internet Blog? Highlight Darfur. Have a bible/prayer group be sure to include Darfur in your prayers.

Generate Press Coverage Help increase news coverage of the humanitarian and security crisis in Darfur by writing your own letters to the editor, opinion editorials and blog postings about the genocide and what we can all do to help the people of Darfur.



Dear Members and Regional Email Contacts,

At the recent Regional Meeting, long-time member, Doris Stukes, made a passionate plea for Dominicans in the Region to do whatever they can to help stop the horror in Darfur.

She has been in touch with David Rubenstein who is organizing some efforts locally and most notably a protest at the Sudanese embassy and an exhibit at the Holocaust Museum. See the following websites:

<http://www.savedarfur.org> <http://www.ushmm.org> <http://www.darfurdarfur.org>
<http://www.darfurdarfur.org>

Below you will find, a short recap of Doris' presentation to the Region followed by a section recommending 4 steps that you can take to help the people in Darfur. Please give these your prayerful consideration and do whatever you can. When Lent comes around and we hear the Song, "Where you there when they crucified my Lord?" What part will we find ourselves playing?

In Christ,

~Therese Errigo OPThirdWashDC@aol.com

~

From Doris Stukes:

In 1965 I visited some German friends of mine. As we toured the country, I ask them about the death camps. Surely this could not have been happening without anyone knowing about it. They told me that people did know what was happening. My ultimate question was: Why people did not do anything about it?

For them personally their inaction was due to fear of reprisal in many forms. They were not Catholics. However, they told me that Catholics worked in the gas chambers and put Jews to death. This has always troubled me.

They were not trying to hurt me no more than I was trying to blame them for inaction. We were trying to understand how supposedly "good" people could perpetrate such atrocities. I was surprised to see this included as an example of Catholics living in two worlds (the world of daily life and the world of worship) before Vatican II in *Worship: A Primer in Christian Ritual* by Keith Pecklers, S.J., S. L. D. Fr. Pecklers went on to say: "One would enter Sunday worship to leave the world and block it out for an hour, pray to God finding solace and peace, and then return to real life which was just the opposite. There is no better example of this dichotomy than that of Catholic workers at Auschwitz and Dachau who faithfully attended Mass at a nearby church each morning, after which they would proceed to 'work' and exterminate hundreds, thousands, of innocent women and men."

Remembering my visit to Germany, I attended the rally this summer on the Mall for Darfur. I wanted to do whatever I could to bring the plight of these innocent people to the conscience of the American people. So that if years from now, someone ask me as I ask my German friends, "Why people did not do anything about it? I will not be guilty of not trying to stop a genocide that I knew existed. This is why I presented it at our regional meeting.

Four Small, Easy Steps to Take

- You can help end the genocide by taking small steps that can make a big difference for the people of Darfur. By lobbying your member of Congress, educating others, planning a local event, and generating coverage in the Media about the crisis, you will help build the political power needed to end this conflict. Lobby Congress Meet with your member of Congress and urge him or her to do more to help the people of Darfur. We have created the materials you need to have a successful lobby visit.
- Find a Local Event (SEE NOTICE ON PROTEST AT SUDANESE EMBASSY BELOW)
- Find a local Darfur-related event in your own community or share information about an activity you are planning to help the people of Darfur.
- Educate Others

Teach others about the first genocide of the 21st century and inform them of

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*My Dear brothers
and sisters in the
Fraternities of Saint
Dominic,*

*I hope that drawing
these excerpts from
the various writings
of Saint Catherine
will inspire you all to
further explore the
Dialogue of this most
blessed Dominican
Tertiary.*

*Saint Catherine
certainly received the
gifts of knowledge
and wisdom from the
"eternal Trinity,"
Let her lead you to
those same gifts!*

*~ Karolyn Smith
kwsmith@optonline*



From the final pages of "Her Book" as she called it "The Dialogue" of St. Catherine of Siena In Sec. 167 as translated by Suzanne Noffke, O.P. which opens:

Now that soul had seen the truth and the excellence of obedience with the eye of her understanding, and had known it by the light of most holy faith; she had heard it with feeling and tasted it with anguished longing in her will as she gazed into the divine majesty. So she gave him thanks, saying...(Page 365 paragraph 3)

Abyss!

O eternal Godhead!

O deep sea! What more could you have given me than the gift of your very self?

You are a fire always burning but never consuming; you are a fire consuming in your heat all the soul's selfish love; you are a fire lifting all chill and giving light. In your light you have made me know your truth: You are that light beyond all light who gives the mind's eye supernatural light in such fullness and perfection that you bring clarity even to the light of faith. In that faith I see that my soul has life, and in that light receives you who are Light.

In the light of faith I gain wisdom in the wisdom of the Word your Son; in the light of faith I am strong, constant, persevering; in the light of faith I have hope: It does not let me faint along the way. This light teaches me the way, and without this light I would be walking in the dark. This is why I asked you, eternal Father, to enlighten me with the light of most holy faith.

Truly this light is a sea, for it nourishes the soul in you, peaceful sea, eternal Trinity. Its water is not sluggish; so the soul is not afraid because she knows the truth. It distills, revealing hidden things, so that here, where the most abundant light of your faith abounds, the soul has, as it were, a guarantee of what she believes. This water is a mirror in which you, eternal Trinity, grant me knowledge; for when I look into this mirror, holding it in the hand of love, it shows me myself, as your creation, in you, and you in me through the union you have brought about of the Godhead with our humanity.

January
2007

Submissions to
eLumen must be
sent by
the 15th of the
month.

Send submissions to
your regional editor
or directly to

Managing Editor,
Faith Flaherty TOP
at
[r.f.flaherty
@comcast.net](mailto:r.f.flaherty@comcast.net)

Don't forget to
Send Us Your
Photos!



www.3op.org

THE PARABLE

The 2006 advent edition of The Parable on interreligious dialogue is available (\$6 a copy or \$5 a copy for 10 or more). The publication can be ordered on line at www.parableconference.org/8.html.

Last Chance to Purchase Volume 1

Destined to be a classic source for historians of the presence of Dominicans in the early years of the Order in the United States. Volume I Dominicans at Home in a Young Nation 1786 – 1865 will soon become unavailable. The McGreal Center has a limited number of copies and any person, group or organization that would like a copy should contact Judy Miller, OP.

The project to write the history of the Dominican Order in the USA is being spearheaded by Janet Welsh, OP Interim Director of the Nona McGreal Center for Dominican Historical Studies at Dominican University. Volume II is currently underway. Call Research Assistant Judy Miller to order your books today. (773) 921-2207.

OP Poetry Contest

eLumen encourages everyone in the Fraternities of St. Dominic to express themselves. In previous issues we've announced the **OP Poetry Contest**, which is still accepting submissions, until April 1, 2007. See <http://www.oprize.com> for details.

We've also asked you to consider the Dominican book publisher, **Dominicus Books**, when you're ready to publish. <http://dominicusbks.com/default.aspx>

Now we're asking you to help out **The Dominican Torch**, the quarterly publication of the Fraternities of St. Dominic, Province of St. Joseph, USA. The editorial staff is revamping its departments. The managing editor is setting up "departments" under the heading of the **Four Pillars for the Dominican Torch for 2007**. They are looking for articles, essays, poetry, stories, photos, etc. for each of the Pillars. They need material for the Winter 2007 issue, plus material for the future. Please contact Mary Fisk for more information: maryfisk2006@comcast.net

Prayers Requested

John Berry, St. Martin de Porres Chapter, Natick, MA who is hospitalized.

Mike Ackerley, Bl. Margaret of Castello Pro-Chapter who has not been feeling well and is worrying about **his father** who recently had a heart attack, and is taking care of him. Mike requests prayers for **both of them**.

January 2007

If you can pledge any amount, please let me know via phone:

540-660-2196

Thank you so much for your anticipated support. I will let you know ASAP if and when the tax deductible fund is set up. On the slim chance that we cannot set up a tax-deductible fund, we will set up a regular fund and let you know where you can send your pledge.

God bless you all,
~Valerie von Fange



De Profundis

Judy Schiminsky, O.P.
Our Lady of Guadeloupe Chapter
Front Royal, VA

Upon the death of a member in the Province of St. Joseph, USA, tertiaries are encouraged to remember the deceased in a Mass, pray in a group individually, the Office for the Dead, or pray the Rosary for the deceased.

As many of you have learned by phone or word of mouth, Judy passed away shortly after 12:00p on the Feast of Day of Guadalupe. Her passing on this special day couldn't have been better orchestrated by Our Lord. A close friend of Judy's informed me that the Chalet (Judy is the founder of Chalet Magnificat, a shelter for mothers with problem pregnancies) was dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe. She died surrounded by friends praying the Angelus. I must strongly commend Judy's attending nurses who made sure she was comfortable, clean and safe during her final hours of suffering. They worked with the visitors so well, being flexible with visitors and religious articles. Judy died with Fr. Hathaway's brown scapular around her neck. We also anointed her with her Padre Pio oil. You have all done a fabulous job in praying over Judy, taking time out of your schedules and ensuring that she had a safe journey to her Maker.

A Plea

Valerie von Fange has power of attorney for Judy Schiminisky. Judy's funeral expenses need to be raised. We need to recollect that burying the dead is one of the corporal works of Mercy.

I am forwarding a message from Valerie von Fange, who had Judy's power of attorney, about the need to collect funds for her burial. I think this is a very worthy cause. Burying the dead is one of the corporal works of mercy, and Judy was our sister in the Order. If you are able to contribute please contact Valerie. Her phone is listed in the paragraph below.

Judy had set no funds aside to cover for funeral costs. Decisions need to be made immediately as to whether or not Judy will have a traditional burial or be cremated. Here are the costs involved.

- 1) Traditional: estimated \$7000 (Judy's body will be buried in Minnesota with her Dominican scapular)
- 2) Cremation: estimated \$2000 (Judy's ashes will be buried in Minnesota)

Judy's wishes were a traditional burial, yet we need to raise the funds immediately to make this decision. We are working on setting up a tax-deductible fund on her behalf. Any extra proceeds will go toward Divine Mercy Foundation in Fairfax, VA (which is what Judy's will preference form requested). Flowers, cards and gifts can be sent to Judy's family co/ Marilyn Kunze, 20576 Jackson Ave, Brainard, MN 56401-7241.