

March 2007

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Letter from Our President

March is one of those turning point months! Somehow with the coming of March we feel we have “turned a corner.” Why this should be when many of us are still hampered by piles of ice and snow, bending before gusty, icy winds and struggling to overcome the winter blahs? Well, it is a month of celebration that’s why!

Although I no longer do my three’s and seven’s (basic steps for all Irish jigs, reels, set dances and such) down Constitution Avenue past the White House in the annual parade, I still celebrate the feast of the great St. Patrick. Myth or fact; Britain, Italian or whatever; on the liturgical calendar or not; I still celebrate! I stand in awe of those who have carried the faith from that little island to the corners of the world; from founding centers of learning in the Europe during the Dark Ages to the schools of mission countries today. I remember the courage of a people who clung to their faith through centuries of persecution and injustice, hunger and famine, exile and dispersal, often with little but the rags on their back and a rosary in hand.

When we have barely recovered from this day, we have the opportunity to celebrate the feast of that “just man,” St. Joseph. Indeed much thought should be given to Joseph for he is not only the patron of our Province and guardian of the Church but he is the essential model for a lay person, an everyday guy put into extreme situations, to which he responded with extraordinary virtue. There is not one of us that cannot be aided by his intercession and inspired by his obedience, trust and faithfulness.

Finally, on March 25th, we reach the day, which is in fact the basis of all our celebrations - the Feast of the Annunciation. As John Paul II said “it is the pivotal day in the history of mankind.” Without this day all other celebrations are meaningless! This feast commemorates that day on which God’s plan for salvation was revealed. It was on this day that through the participation of Mary, the Word became the God-Man -- God became the God-Man. God becomes Man, all mankind is elevated; mankind is ennobled by kinship with and redemption by the Divine. Good News indeed!

For that reason March 25th has always seemed a most Dominican feast to me. The announcement of this Good News was the primary mission of the Order. If we have some other reason for being Dominicans, we have missed this message somehow. We pray to be worthy announcers, we study to be better able to articulate the message, and we meet together to encourage, inspire and assist each other as messengers. Then we go out to find our rooftop and start announcing. Our particular roof certainly can differ but if we aren’t there, we have missed not only the point of our vocation, we have missed the point of the Order, and we have missed the lesson of the missionary Patrick and the virtuous Joseph but the entire point of the Annunciation.

I leave you with an ancient Eastern Orthodox hymn, you can hum along as you celebrate.



*Hail,
Full of Grace*

Today is the beginning of our salvation,
The revelation of the eternal mystery!
The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin
As Gabriel announces the coming of Grace.
Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos.
Rejoice, O Full of Grace,
The Lord is with you!

Dorothy Murphy, T.O.P.
Provincial Council President
redceltop@starpower.net

Do you have a Mass intention? Dominican priests are happy to oblige.

You can have a Mass offered for your intentions at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. Many parishes are overbooked with Mass intentions, but the Dominican House of Studies has around thirty priests, with 15-30 Masses offered every day. Since there is no parish attached to the DHS, there are currently many Masses waiting for intentions to be supplied by the people of God at large. In other words, if you have a Mass intention, the Dominican priests will help. The Fathers are also able to do something that typical parishes cannot do, namely, sequence the Masses. For example, do you want a Novena of Masses offered for a particular intention? State it in your request.

Additionally, all Mass donations go to support the Dominican House of Studies. Think of what a Mass costs you in your parish, then add a donation for the House, and send it with your intentions to:

Fr. Matthew Rzczkowski, O.P.
Dominican House of Studies
487 Michigan Ave., NE
Washington, DC 20017

If you would like a Mass card sent, please supply the information.

Announcement:

A Symposium sponsored by Siena Heights University and the Adrian Dominican Sisters
Celebrating 800 years of Faith + Heritage + Ministry, of the Dominican Order of Preachers
from May 13 to 16, 2007 in Adrian, Michigan
For more information: 800-974-0731
<http://www.sienahs.edu/~symposium>



Biography of Former Prioress

Usually *eLumen* does not offer book reviews. However, since this book is about Joyce Donovan, an exception has been made. Joyce was the Moderator of St. Dominic's Chapter (St. Dominic/St. Stephen Chapter). Her life is an example of the guidance of the Holy Spirit in one's life.

Grasping the Nettle, by Joyce Donovan (1922-2001), Xulon Press, 397 pages.

By Louise M. Small, Our Lady of Divine Providence Chapter rob-lo@comcast.net

This is the autobiography of a lay person, whose parents were of a "mixed marriage," her father being Protestant and mother a sometimes practicing Catholic, but of loving parents whose memories she cherished, who was sent to Catholic schools, and who through strength of prayer, adhered to her faith with great courage and fortitude and later became an instrument of grace to her parents and many others. The book was published posthumously on December 12, 2006-- a present from heaven?

Joyce tells the story of the great adventure of her life; an Irish citizen, raised in Liverpool, England who became a lay Dominican and while living in England became engaged to Ted, her future husband, living in Ireland, as the rumblings of World War II began. These rumblings increased to a crescendo for her when the ship she was traveling on from England to Ireland to have a visit with Ted, capsized as the result of being hit by a magnetic mine dropped by German bombers, and she and one other person appear to have been the sole survivors. This and many other dramatic events in her life's travels, make the book a page-turner from beginning to end.

It is said that God brings us to Himself in the way that is best for us through the events and circumstances of our lives; a point brought home quite clearly to me through the reading of the book as when Joyce was Prioress of St. Dominic's Chapter in Boston, this reviewer had just participated in a new movement in the church and shortly thereafter arrived in Joyce's living room in Brighton, Massachusetts, soon becoming a member of the Dominicans. On the other hand, Joyce, after a time of great trials and difficulties eventually became an active member of the charismatic movement, the vehicle which for her, in retrospect, seems to have been the Dominicans. She and Ted had been invited to a "spiritual evening" at the Dominican House of Studies in Dover, Massachusetts; the presiding priest was Father Stock "whom we knew quite well." They later decided they "were not keen on 'that sort of thing.'" However, "Little did we know that we were witnessing the first stirrings of the Holy Spirit's inspired 'Renewal' in the Catholic Church." She and her husband were later introduced to the charismatic movement in England by non-Catholics through the influence of their youngest daughter, Liz. Not wanting to give up their Catholic faith, Joyce and her husband became involved with a Catholic charismatic group in London; always, however, maintaining a close relationship with the non-Catholic charismatic group and Liz. Charismatic prayer, Joyce found, was the prayer she had been gifted with as a young child, had not understood, and had not ever mentioned to anyone.

It was a little disappointing that the chapter on the "The Tape Library," did not mention the involvement of St. Dominic's Chapter in this apostolate of making tapes for the blind. Included, however, are many of the details of how the Tape Library came to be and the good effects on so many, blind and otherwise, all over the world. The tragedy and mystery of their daughter Pamela's death in Vietnam, and the connection of the tapes to Pamela's return to the church shortly before her death is quite moving.

Throughout her travels, Joyce was a friend to those in high and low places. She was a very down-to-earth person with lofty aspirations, most assuredly a choleric in temperament. You cannot help but be profoundly affected by the reading of this book. It is a treasure from many points of view. Available through www.amazon.com \$14.95

Regional News

Region One Faith Flaherty r.f.flaherty@comcast.net

April 28th Regional Day Reminder

**Because of a previous booking by St. Mary's in New Haven,
St. Mary's Chapter will host the regional meeting
at Our Lady of Pompeii Church a short distance away.
A new flyer will be sent out with directions.** Raymond Biszko

Our Lady of Divine Providence, St. Thomas Aquinas Priory, Providence College, Providence, prayed Evening Prayer and the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary in the (Saint Thomas Aquinas) Priory's Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel, at our last meeting. Then, in the (Priory) classroom, our Religious Promoter, Fr. Matthew Morry, O.P., presented a talk about the Feast of the Presentation. We also enjoyed refreshments.

Laureen Ann Petrocchi, T.O.P. laureenann@mac.com

Hope of Bethany Pro-Chapter, Sherborne, MA had its bi-monthly visit with its Spiritual Promoter, from Texas, Fr. Wayne Cavalier, O.P. on February 17th. A few new aspirants dropped by. Hopefully we will see them again when the Pro-Chapter meets next on St. Patrick's Day—March 17th. Ruth Raichele Bethanyosfop@aol.com

Mother of God Chapter, West Springfield, MA begins its meetings with the Rosary at Noon, followed by Mass celebrated by our Spiritual Promoter, Fr. Peter Girard, O.P. Postulant and Novice classes are earlier in the morning. Our ongoing apostolates are going well: Food for the Poor collects canned goods every meeting, Siena Circles will be every Saturday during Lent, Liturgy of the Hours Workshop will be conducted on March 10th, and Fr. Peter is conducting a "Lector Fitness Class" for ten Thursday evenings. The class started on Feb. 1, 2007. Also, the nuns from the Mother of God Monastery will conduct a Mini-Concert on Sundays to celebrate 800 years of the Dominican Nuns. For more information please contact Mary Ellen Stroud

Bl. Margaret of Castello Dominican Pro-Chapter, Lewiston, Maine is continuing with its apostolates. The "Called and Gifted" workshops are still continuing on Saturdays. Little Rock Scripture Series continues. A one-day retreat is being planned for May 5 on "Writing Your Own Psalms: A Spiritual Journey". For a brochure, email Denise. Denise Mailhot deniseop3@yahoo.com

Region Two Anna Donnelly Donnella@stjohns.edu

Our Lady of Hope Chapter, Long Island, NY, which meets at St. Jude's in Mastic Beach has three members about to embark on a journey. Moderator, Ana Pauze, Treasurer, Eileen Schmidt, and Kathy Gillen will be joining the Dominican Pilgrimage to Italy on March 1-10th! (This Dominican Pilgrimage was advertised in the November-December *eLumen*.) When we return we will share our Dominican adventure with *eLumen*. Please keep us in your prayers; for you will be remembered in ours. Kathy Gillen ktgillen@yahoo.com

Sacred Heart Chapter, Rahway, NJ, which meets at St. Mary's School, has been working with the new formation materials, the Postulancy Modules. At meetings, after Rosary and Liturgy of the Hours, we use the questions at the end of the module to start the discussions which has lead to some spirited sessions.. We generally have between 10 and 15 members attend the monthly meeting and are very happy that so many can come out to celebrate in community. We actually look forward to these sessions as a way to help our own Dominican Spirituality and our knowledge of our Dominican charism stronger. We also have a monthly newsletter advising of chapter happenings, celebrating members birthdays with photos, and including relative Dominican information. Helen Tice hatlady45@comcast.net

Region Three submit to Faith Flaherty r.f.flaherty@comcast.net

Mary Queen of Apostles Chapter, Elmira, NY decided at their January meeting, to allow more time for study. We are reducing the amount of time spent during the monthly meeting with business topics. At this meeting we instituted the practice of inviting members who are present to record in an "intentions book" any intentions that they have, instead of taking the time to go around the room. Given the size of our membership, this would usually take several minutes. We are not incorporating such petitions as general intentions at closing prayer.

Beginning with our March chapter meeting, two members will present a specific topic of study. For March, Kathleen Desrosier and Diane Farr have prepared a lesson on prayer. Kathleen is going to be speaking about Father Dominic's nine ways of prayer, while Diane is sharing her insight regarding stages of prayer, reflecting the works of St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila. Instead of always relying on Fr. Sam to prepare a talk for us, we are sharing our own knowledge and talents. In this way we are exercising our study and preaching. Brenda Lisi blisi@stny.rr.com

Most Holy Theotokos Pro Chapter, Fort Covington, NY gathered for our weekly meeting at St. Mary's Center to pray vespers and receive Dominican formation from our Religious Promoter, Fr Martin Farrell, O.P., from Ottawa, Ontario. We are so blessed to receive and enjoy his company every third Thursday of the month. Our monthly schedule has just been made into a calendar for our members. On the first Thursday of the month we will do the Sienna Circle bible sharing which we plan on opening up to the three church communities of St. Mary's, St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's for Lent and with hope the "new people" will stay with us on a monthly basis, to begin an apostolate. On the second Thursday of the month we are all doing the Postulancy Modules from the beginning. We picked up the modules at the last Regional meeting in Elmira and since our first members had not read the modules we decided all of us would read them together. On the third Thursday of the month Fr Martin instructs us on the finer points of Dominican life and on the fourth Thursday of the month we have a chapter meeting. For the next six weeks every Thursday will be Sienna Circle week until the end of Lent when our calendar of events kicks in again. Donna Smith covicon123@yahoo.com

Region Four George Bell eLumenDesigner@aol.com

Check out our new regional blog at www.FratDomRegion4.blogspot.com

St. Thomas Aquinas Chapter 410, Lancaster PA.

As a new regional moderator, it's a pleasure to be able to interact with the chapters on a more regular basis. I'm starting to learn the "personalities" of all of the Laity communities in the region. One chapter that has been especially inspiring to me is our chapter in Lancaster, PA. With about 20 active members (8 of whom are in formation), this chapter is dedicated to living the spirit of the Fraternities. The chapter meets at the Dominican Monastery of the Perpetual Rosary, which gives the members the ability to pray the rosary and chant the office with the nuns at the close of their monthly meetings. They are also blessed with an O.P. friar, Fr. Edward Gaffney, as their spiritual promoter.

Besides all of the OP religious life around them, the chapter's formation program is led by Jocelyn Sherman, T.O.P., who has made sure that the members are living the Pillar of Study. After the election of Pope Benedict XVI, the chapter began in intensive study of the Holy Father's first encyclical. As they finish this study, the council is preparing to embark on another scholarly journey through one of the Pope's other works. As the chapter moderator, Genevieve Liebl, T.O.P., expressed, "We want our members to really know our Holy Father's way of thinking, so we chose to use his works as our ongoing formation material."

In addition to the solid ongoing formation program, the chapter regularly welcomes guest speakers like Friars from the Dominican Province in Nigeria, Africa. In January the chapter participated in a panel discussion on the history of the Dominican Nuns. To commemorate the 800th jubilee of the founding of the Nuns, nine of the cloistered sisters joined the discussion group and made presentations to the membership. It was really a wonderful day to celebrate the Dominican Spirit.

Region Four

The chapter doesn't stop with its own membership: Three chapter members facilitate weekly bible sharing through out the Lancaster area. One member takes the Siena Circle program to a more intimate level. Mary Burke, T.O.P., volunteers at a local outreach mission where she makes herself available for one-on-one bible sharing for those who need to feel the love of Christ during the most trying times. What a beautiful way to live the Dominican vocation!

As if this chapter wasn't doing so much, they still have an active book sharing ministry to Nigeria! The chapter collects books to ship to the Nigerian mission to help build library collections. Have you any books you'd like to donate? Contact Region Four for information at DominicanVocations@hotmail.com.

Region Five Therese Errigo OPThirdWashDC@aol.com

Bishop Fenwick Chapter, Silver Spring, Md. – The chapter is sponsoring its 6th annual Lenten Lecture Series. As in past years this series will take place on Tuesdays at St. Andrew Apostle Catholic Church in the Wheaton section of Silver Spring. Evening prayer will be at 7:30 pm with the lecture following immediately. The theme for this year's series is "Scripture in Belief, Prayer, Liturgy." For additional information please email the moderator of the chapter, Tom Kreitzberg at tak@smart.net. Please spread the word and bring a friend! Lecture topics, dates, and presenters are as follows:

February 27th: Rev. Joseph Alobaidi, O.P., Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture, Jesus Christ - Fulfillment of the Promise.

March 6th: Rev. Kevin McGrath, O.P. Asst. Student Master and Librarian, Scripture in the Liturgical Life of the Church.

March 13th: Rev. John Corbett, O.P., Assistant Professor Moral Theology, Understanding the Symbolic Language of the Book of Revelation.

March 20th: Rev. John Langlois, O.P., Pontifical Faculty and Student Master, The Scriptural Journey of Mary - The Rosary.

March 27th: Rev. Peter Fegan, O.P. Doctoral Candidate, Catholic University of America - Unlocking the Scriptures - The Ancient Art of *Lectio Divinia*.

All programs begin with Evening Prayer 7:30 pm, St. Andrew Apostle Church, Kemp Mill and Arcola Roads, Silver Spring, MD

Mary Star of the Sea Pro-Chapter, Shadyside, Maryland -- will be having professions and receptions on March 20, 2007 jointly with the Bishop Fenwick Chapter from Silver Spring. The ceremony will be held immediately preceding the March 20th Lenten Lecture by Fr. John Langlois, OP, who is also the spiritual promoter for the Bishop Fenwick Chapter. The ceremony will be at 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrew Apostle Church in the Wheaton section of Silver Spring. All Region 5 members are especially invited to attend and help us celebrate this joyful occasion.

Dominican House of Studies, Washington, DC -- The annual St. Thomas Aquinas lecture sponsored by the Dominican House of Studies will be on Sunday, March 4, 2007, at 2:00 pm at the House of Studies on Michigan Avenue (www.dhs.edu). "Charity's Knowledge: The Relationship Between Knowledge and Love in Aquinas' Account of Human Action" will be given by Fr. Michael S. Sherwin, O.P. Fr. Sherwin is Associate Professor of Fundamental Moral Theology at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. He is the author of *By Knowledge and by Love: Charity and*

Knowledge in the Moral Theology of St. Thomas Aquinas, for which he received the 2006 Charles Cardinal Journet Prize from Ave Maria University's Aquinas Center for Theological Renewal. Alasdair MacIntyre says of Fr. Sherwin's *By Knowledge and By Love*, "Sherwin has provided a wonderfully illuminating study of the development and structure of Aquinas' thought on these matters. Both as a guide to recent scholarship and as an insightful account of what is philosophically and theologically at stake, this is an excellent book."

St. Thomas Aquinas Pro-Chapter -- Sunday, January 28, 2007, was the Patronal Feast Day for the parish of St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlottesville, Virginia. This was not only a special day for the parish but also an especially joyful one for the St. Thomas Aquinas Pro-Chapter of the Fraternities of St. Dominic. After a beautiful high Mass, at 11:30 am, the Rite of Reception of Novices was held in the church. The day was made extra special as the Provincial Spiritual Promoter, Fr. Juan-Diego Brunetta, O.P., officiated. To add to our delight, eight Dominican novice brothers and their Novice Master from Ohio attended along with the Provincial Council President, Dorothy Murphy. The Rite was beautiful in its simplicity and Fr. Juan-Diego gave us a moving Exhortation. It was a true Dominican Family celebration. We dedicated the Rite to the memory of our sister, Mary Vazquez-Amaral, who died in December, shortly after having been received as a novice in a private ceremony. Like all good Dominicans we followed the ceremony with a celebratory luncheon. It was a blessed and wonderful day. Our chapter is now increased by just over 50%. God has been very kind to us. (Our novice's names can be found in the *Te Deum* column.)



St. Thomas Aquinas Pro-chapter Reception Ceremony with Fr. Juan-Diego Brunetta, OP, Provincial Spiritual Promoter for the Fraternities of St. Dominic, Dorothy Murphy, Provincial President, and the Eastern Province Novice Brothers and their Novice Master at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlottesville, Va.

Four of the New Novices: Jeanne McKee, Karen Poehailos, Monica Walker, and Julie Zackrisson



St. Thomas Aquinas Pro-Chapter with Fr. Juan-Diego Brunetta, O.P., Provincial Spiritual Promoter (right), Fr. Brian Mulcahy, O.P., Spiritual Promoter for the Chapter (left side), and Dorothy Murphy, Provincial President.

Email contact for the St. Thomas Aquinas Pro-Chapter is Robbie Gibson robbie_oc_gibson@yahoo.com

Region Five (Continued)

Immaculate Conception Chapter, Washington, DC -- The Immaculate Conception Chapter's yearly retreat will be from March 30 to April 1 in Emmitsburg, Maryland at the beautiful Seton Retreat Center. The center adjoins the St. Elizabeth Seton Shrine and Basilica and is on the beautiful grounds of the motherhouse for the Eastern Province Daughters of Charity. Fr. Bart De La Torre, O.P., will be the retreat master. The theme is "I Will Be Their God and They Shall Be My People."

Fr. Bart de la Torre, O.P., was ordained in 1967 in the Western Province. He holds multiple degrees. After ordination he earned a Diploma in Clinical Pastoral Education, a Licentiate in Mediaeval Studies from the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in Toronto, Canada and a Ph.D. in medieval studies from the University of Toronto, with a major in the history of theology and minors in history of philosophy and Latin paleography (the disciplines of reading ancient writing and ancient shorthand, and of editing medieval manuscripts). He spent 10 years in Washington, D.C. translating original works of St. Thomas Aquinas for the Leonine Commission of the Vatican and Dominican Order.

A great promoter of the Fraternities of St. Dominic, he is the former spiritual promoter of the Immaculate Conception Chapter of Washington, D.C., and a founder of the Blessed Margaret of Castello chapter in Boise, Idaho, the St. Monica Chapter in Benicia, California as well as the chapter at St. Thomas Aquinas College while he was a chaplain for the college. Fr. de la Torre is currently assigned to the Western Dominican mission in Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico. This assignment is especially fitting given that he is a cousin of Blessed Miquel Pro (see http://puffin.creighton.edu/jesuit/pro/pro_statue.html.)

While guests are most welcome, members of the chapter, their spouses, and other Region 5 Dominicans, have first priority. If you are interested, please email opthirdwashdc@aol.com to obtain a registration form. This is a silent retreat. The cost is \$135.00. Deadline for all monies was March 5. NO REFUNDS after March 20th due to the retreat center's strict cancellation policy.

Region Six send to Faith Flaherty r.f.flaherty@comcast.net

The St. Catherine of Siena Chapter #603, Columbus, OH will be holding its annual Day of Recollection at the St. Martin de Porres Center, St. Mary of the Springs, Columbus, on Sunday, 11 March 2007, starting at 11 am. We would like to invite all Dominican Fraternity members from nearby chapters to attend. Fr. Juan-Diego Brunetta, O.P., our Provincial Promoter, will be our preacher. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to hear him speak, since he was unable to attend our Fall Regional Retreat. The schedule will consist of recitation of the Rosary, lunch, two spiritual talks, quiet time with opportunity for confession, and will end with Mass and Evening Prayer. The day should end by 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$15.00, which includes lunch and a mid-afternoon snack. For more information and directions, contact Arvin Gallanosa at gallanosa@gmail.com or (614) 488-3779 as soon as possible.

Another neat thing the St. Catherine of Siena Chapter is doing is working on putting "thumbnail" pictures of our members on our growing roster which our secretary has graciously been updating every year. It occurred to our board one day that some of our older members really needed help in recognizing so many new names and faces of the newer members. So, we took some of the snapshots from our profession day photos, and cut and pasted, and this project is looking pretty good, thanks to my son, Dan.

Another thing we as a chapter are hoping to do is have a review type session on reciting the Liturgy of the Hours. It seems many members, old and new, would benefit from an opportunity for Q and A, regarding this important component of Dominican Fraternity membership.

Last month at chapter we were pleased to hand out all 6 of the new postulant training modules to the professed membership. It was a long wait for these, and they are lovely. The Fraternities of St. Dominic did a super job on this project. -- Moni Monica, Acting Formation Director and Chapter Rep. God bless us all. monicconnects@earthlink.net

The St. Thomas Aquinas Chapter is sponsoring a Day of Reflection for Lent on Saturday March 3rd from 9 am - 3 pm. Fr. Augustine Judd, O.P., will be the presenter. He will have conferences based on "Our Conformity to Christ as Priest, Prophet and King". The Day of Reflection will be presented at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 130 N. Fifth St., Zanesville, Ohio. Box lunches will be provided for \$7.00 to those who are pre-registered. For more information, to register and to

make your box lunch selections, please phone Melanie Von Gunten, at (740)453-3301, extension 15. A free will offering will be taken up that day. Melanie Von Gunten mavongunten@yahoo.com

Jordan of Saxony Pro-Chapter, Steubenville: An information night for interested new candidates will be held on March 21st at 6:30 pm at Holy Family Church in Steubenville. Our Pro-Chapter has been meeting since last April, on Thursday afternoons, praying together and continuing Dominican formation in order to solidify our core group before inviting new members. This information night will include Vespers at 6:30 pm in the church led by Fr. Giles Dimock who will also give a brief overview of Dominican spirituality, followed by a slide presentation by Nancy Denman (Temporary professed) and structural presentation by moderator Catherine Heck. All interested are welcome. The Pro-Chapter will meet every third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm at Holy Family Church. Nancy Denman ndenman3op@hotmail.com

Dominican Rule and Commentary

Rule 3, Dominican Family

“Gathered together in communities, with the other groupings of the Order, they constitute one Dominican Family (LCO # 141.)

The last 40 years have seen the recovery and development of the idea of the Dominican Family. The General Chapters from Madonna dell Arco (1974) onwards, bear witness to this. The Bologna Document marks an important point in the awareness of the Dominican Family.

The Dominican Family has its roots in the project and practice of St. Dominic. Historical research points out that besides the foundation of the nuns of Prouille (1208) and of the friars (1215); some laity in 1207 offered themselves and their property to Dominic.

At the present time the reality of the Dominican Family has been emphasized by the Masters of the Order. It has also been the theme in several documents. Members of the Dominican Family have the opportunity to be enriched and fortified by prayer, good works, and spiritual benefits. The family consists of clerical and cooperator friars, cloistered nuns, sisters in apostolic life, members of secular institutes, fraternities of priests and laity, and other groups recognized by the Order.

Before presenting the document of the Dominican Family, a brief overview of its development might be of interest.

A charter for the Dominican Family? Yes or No? This was the question that arose in various ways during the Symposium of the Dominican Family held in Bologna, Italy, April 11-16, 1983. At this symposium there were 75 participants, from 35 countries and 5 continents, gathered around the Master of the Order. The participants included 2 nuns, 29 sisters, 29 friars, 12 laypersons, and 1 member of a secular institute as well as 1 member of the priestly fraternity. They had many ideas and comments regarding a fundamental charter.

It was the first time that a meeting of this type was held on an international level. Six linguistic groups had been set up to discuss the charter. Afterwards, each group shared their ideas with the general assembly.

The presence of three specialists gave an overview of the reality of the Dominican Family; Sister Nona McGreal (Sinsinawa, USA) presented the acts of the General Chapters of the last 15 years, focusing on Dominican Family. Father Vladimir Koudelka (Province of Czechoslovakia) spoke of St. Dominic gathering around himself men and women creating a family which became structured into the Order, as we know it today. Finally, Father Paul O’Heary (Province of Ireland) presented the Dominican Family as part of the great family of the People of God, according to the theology of Vatican Council II.

The groups discussed the content of the various reports and presented corrections; from these came about a new text drawn up by the drafting group. Lacking total acceptance of the text, the assembly elected Father O’Heary and Sister Rafaela Grasser (Switzerland) to draft a new text that could be voted on.

Once the final text was ready for the translators it was presented to the assembly and renamed the Bologna Document of the Dominican Family and accepted. www.op.org/international/Curia/bologna98/documents.html

De Profundis

Please send the names of those who have died to r.f.flaherty@comcast.net, so that they can be included in our continued prayers for the dead.

This month, I am taking the opportunity to post some thoughts on “life.” The following Eulogy was written by Rich Barbuto, Our Lady of the Poor Chapter, Ossining, NY. It was written for his mother. I think you will agree that his words reflect our Catholic sensibilities toward death. May she rest in her “happy death.”

Postscripts to a Eulogy

A few days before my Mom, Rafaela DiMartini Barbuto, 1917 – January 15, 2007, would have celebrated her 90th Birthday; now, we celebrate her whole life, *Alleluia!*

This is not about *Life*, the preserve of the Most High, but about *living*, our domain.

Nevertheless, I pray as I write: LORD – designer of Life & Death, guide me in this.

Nor are these words an exploration of *Good and Evil*. I write on one life, one death. I seek to work out some *lines* I did, and did not, use in my eulogy of my mother.

I opened with how a priest summed up another's death, “His spirit outgrew his body.” I *did not* mention my question to myself: Why am I using *this line* for my mother?!

That man's death was a suicide! Neither did I make mention, then, of my anxiety With another *line* that haunted me: Something that I had read mere hours before I learned that Mom had died. It was a *line* that was said to have bothered another, Tagore, to write *The Post Office*: “Ferryman, take me to the other side of the river.”

After the eulogy, I went back to Tagore's play, and the Preface of Yeats and his *line*, “The meaning of this little play is less intellectual, more emotional and simple.”

Simple. That was my mother. Devoted to Mary; “I say my rosary every day,” *her line!* In writing this, I remembered Mom's spirit as one with Our Lady of Grace. But *who* called?!

Did this wholly healthy woman, mom of 7, grandma of 20, great-grandma of twelve, *call for Deliverance* from us?! *That line* was left unasked in the simple eulogy. *Thank You, God.*

After, to Yeats I returned: “Deliverance . . . rose before his imagination, when Mr. Tagore in the early dawn heard, amid the noise of a crowd . . . the [*call to the*] ‘Ferryman’.” Then I heard, amidst tears, *the line of healing*, “Now, and at the hour of our death,” and knew: Mom, in her last hour on Monday, January 15, simply said, “Yes, Mother, *I'm His.*”

Postscript to the above “Postscript”

I was determined – and prayed adamantly – that my eulogy at Mom's Memorial Mass would be *simple*. I resisted any mention of my quandaries about the line used for a suicide – which, days later, I learned was not for a suicide! I also had to fight myself to avoid any reference to Tagore and Yeats. But as I thought more as I worked on these postscripts, I realized how my anxieties about my mother's desiring of “deliverance” seemed so terrible to me! *Then, I got the grace of all of these musings.* I realized – in my poetry-as-therapy, this composition of myself – that my mother's spirit, in having been with Our Lady's in life knew the Spouse of the Holy Spirit's *call to her* when it came so blessedly. “A sudden death,” to us, left here; but not for Mom for she spoke often of Mary's promise of a “happy death,” a promise to those who are close “. . . to Jesus through Mary.” barbato@bestweb.net

**Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us.
St. Catherine of Siena, pray for us.
Our Holy Father Dominic pray for us.**

Mary Vazquez-Amaral, T.O.P.
St. Thomas Pro-Chapter
Charlottesville, VA

Mary was received as a Novice on December 14, 2006, in a private ceremony. She died on December 23, 2006.

Please pray one Rosary for our sister, Mary Vazquez-Amaral.

Send names for prayer requests, *De Profundis*, and *Te Deum* to one of the editors.

***The Real Presence Association, Inc.
“Vatican International Exhibition”***

We have a **New Mission** in the United States. Some of these quotes are from our brochure:

First, I would like to begin by sharing a little about the Founder and Mission of “**The Real Presence Association, Inc.**” and of the Eucharistic Education and Adoration Association, **Father John A. Hardon, S.J., founder, 1914-2000**. “The Real Presence Eucharistic Education and Adoration Association is a gift of Divine Providence”. Father John A. Hardon, S.J., defines a miracle for us in his Modern Catholic Dictionary as “**A sensibly perceptible effect, surpassing at least the powers of visible nature, produced by God to witness to some truth or to testify to someone’s sanctity.**”

“The Eucharistic Miracles, on the other hand, are **extraordinary events** concerning the Bread and Wine consecrated at Mass which can be experienced through the senses. They become a visible sign of the **Real Presence of Jesus**. By the way, as we shall see, a number of these miracles are continuing right through the present time. These miracles are not known in the realm of Christianity. Society is rejecting such truth! Italy is full of Eucharistic Miracles. Eucharistic Miracles can help us understand, appreciate and love the Sacred Eucharist. We must never forget nor fail to mention that the Eucharist is the true, great, inexhaustible daily miracle. Pope Benedict XVI is interested in promoting this mission in the United States.

He Is Present in a true, real, substantial way, with His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. **He Is Present** in a sacramental way, under the species of bread and wine, Christ whole and entire, God and man. Making His sacrifice on the cross, present and actual, He becomes our nourishment, real food and real drink, uniting us with Him and with each other.

Under the kindness and willingness of Antonia Salzaro Acutis of the Pontifical Academy Cultorum Martyrum, The Real Presence Association, Inc. will present this photographic Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition to the people of the United States of America.

A **great promoter of the Exhibition is Monsignor Raffaello Martinelli** of St. Ambrose and St. Charles Basilica, an **official** of the **Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith**, and member of Clement I, Pope and Martyr. He presents some of the principal Eucharistic Miracles that took place throughout the ages in various countries of the world that have been recognized by the Church.

The complete exhibition consists of **160 Miracles and stands** that were ordered by Mr. Mike Mortimer, from the Real Presence Association. By the grace of God, I have been blessed and appointed by The Real Presence Association Board of Directors to promote the exhibition throughout the **Eastern Coast**. I have been building a “**Rochester, NY Networking Team**” and I thank God for the dedicated help. This team is growing throughout the east coast, as the Spirit leads me and others, become involved in this great mission for our Lord and Master. All for His honor and glory. **This exhibition is called the “Traveling Exhibition”**. Please call me to reserve a weekend at your Church for the “**Exhibition and Eucharistic Conference**”.

We are promoting **Eucharistic Conferences**, celebrating **Sacred Mass, Benediction, Procession, having a speaker and the display of the Exhibition**. Several times I have invited singer **Dawn Marie Chmiel** from “**Ministry, Act Of Hope Records**”, Piano and Vocals. Dawn Marie Chmiel, in God’s will has been available to perform at some of my Events. **We can invite Dawn to sing at some of the Eucharistic Conferences & Exhibitions. Dawn has produced two CDs, “Son Of Mary” & “For His Glory”, Hymns of Faith and Inspiration” - lovely voice!** If interested, I can provide more information about Dawn.

Amazing Grace Travels! We will be working along with those appointed from each **Basilica, Shrine, Parish, Cathedral, Catholic Organization etc.**, on coordinating the conferences, sharing our gifts, talents and experiences. I have been working with some of the Dominican Preachers and other Priests from other orders and some of the Laity from the Fraternities of St. Dominic serving our Lord and God. A few of the members are from the Carmelite 3rd Order. We are all brothers and sisters, building the kingdom of God, united in the “**One Body Of “Christo”!** Jesus keeps giving us the message of salvation, “**Come & See**”, **It is truly “Me”, the “Eternal Life”, that can begin right here on earth. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord, our Savior.**

For more information, please visit our web site: www.therealpresence.org

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Te Deum

The following people were received by Fr. Stephen Dominic Hayes, O.P. on Sept. 3, 2006 into the St. Martin de Porres Fraternity in New Hope, KY:

William Landon Caylor, T.O.P. (Anthony of Pavonia)
Karen Ruth Caylor, T.O.P. (Benoite Rencurrel)
James R. Daugherty, T.O.P. (Maximillian)
James Martin Cesare, T.O.P. (Pier Giorgio)
Tomas Patrick Sweeney T.O.P. (Thomas)

Perpetual Profession

Diane Stepp, T.O.P. (Monica Martin)

The following people from St. Thomas’ Pro-Chapter, Charlottesville, VA were received on January 28, 2007, into the Novitiate:

Ginnie Boucher Susan MacWright

Lori Donlon	Karen Poehailos
James Leitch	Monica Walker
Jeanne McKee	Julie Zackrisson

IGNITE YOUR TORCH
Catholic Youth Conference
July 26-29, 2007

The St. Martin de Porres Fraternity in New Hope, Kentucky is sponsoring its third **IGNITE YOUR TORCH** Catholic Youth Conference, July 26-29, 2007, on the campus of Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky. Information about the upcoming event and news about past events is available at www.igniteyourtorch.org.

This event involves all branches of the Dominican Family. This year Dominican participants will be Fr. Giles Dimock, O.P., Fr. Stephen Dominic Hayes, O.P., Dominican student brothers, Nashville and Hawthorne Dominican sisters, two Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic (New Hope and Louisville,) two Clerical Fraternity members, Msgr. Anthony la Femina and Fr. Anthony Mendoza. Some events will be held at St. Louis Bertrand Priory in cooperation with the Friars and the parish youth ministry. Last year we had over 230 participants including youth from ten states and four foreign countries. We expect over 250 for the upcoming event.

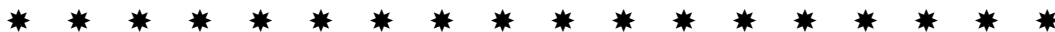
Please pray for the success of **IGNITE YOUR TORCH**.

Theo Stearns tstearns@scrtc.com



Prayer Request

Joan Burke, our long-time Provincial bookstore manager and dedicated helper with everything, is facing yet another surgery for her back. Joan has been hard hit the past year-and-a-half. First she had back surgery, then open heart, then another back surgery. She is still in a lot of pain and hence the need for yet another surgery. We are asking the entire province to raise her intentions up in prayer. Please storm heaven on her behalf. We need to have our smiley, joyful Joan back.



*Nine Month Novena in
Honor of the Virgin of the Incarnation*

Prayed each day from the Solemnity of the Annunciation
to the Solemnity of the Nativity
March 25 – December 25
(This novena is offered for three intentions)

Salve Regina (Hail Holy Queen...)

O Virgin of the Incarnation, a thousand times we praise thee, a thousand times we greet thee, for the joy thou did know when the Son of God became flesh in thy womb. Because thou are most powerful, O Virgin Mother of God, grant what we beseech thee for the love of God: (*here name the three intentions*).

Memorare (Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary...)
Hail Mary

May the heart of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, be praised, adored and loved with grateful affection at every moment in all the tabernacles of the world and in the hearts of all, even until the end of time. *Amen.*

*Fr. Juan-Diego, O.P., has prayed this novena every year since entering the Order 10 years ago.
He wants to share it with the Dominican Family.*

Dialogue

From “The Dialogue” of St. Catherine of Siena
Translated by Dr. Suzanne Noffke, O.P.

Sec. 26

THE BRIDGE

Then God eternal, to stir up even more that soul's love for the salvation of souls, responded to her:

Before I show you what I want to show you, and what you asked to see, I want to describe the bridge for you. I have told you that it stretches from heaven to earth by reason of my having joined myself with your humanity, which I formed from the earth's clay.

This bridge, my only begotten Son, has three stairs. Two of them he built on the wood of the most holy cross, and the third even as he tasted the great bitterness of the gall and vinegar they gave him to drink. You will recognize in these three stairs three spiritual stages.

The first stair is the feet, which symbolize the affections. For just as the feet carry the body, the affections carry the soul. My Son's nailed feet are a stair by which you can climb to his side, where you will see revealed his inmost heart. For when the soul has climbed up on the feet of affection and looked with her mind's eye into my Son's opened heart, she begins to feel the love of her own heart in his consummate and unspeakable love. (I say consummate because it is not for his own good that he loves you; you cannot do him any good, since he is one with me.) Then the soul, seeing how tremendously she is loved, is herself filled to overflowing with love. So, having climbed the second stair, she reaches the third. This is his mouth, where she finds peace from the terrible war she has had to wage because of her sins.

At the first stair, lifting the feet of her affections from the earth, she stripped herself of sin. At the second she dressed herself in love for virtue. And at the third she tasted peace.

So the bridge has three stairs, and you can reach the last by climbing the first two. The last stair is so high that the flooding waters cannot strike it—for the venom of sin never touched my Son.

But though this bridge has been raised so high, it still is joined to the earth. Do you know when it was raised up? When my Son was lifted up on the wood of the most holy cross he did not cut off his divinity from the lowly earth of your humanity. So, though he was raised so high he was not raised off the earth. In fact, his divinity is kneaded into the clay of your humanity like one bread. Nor could anyone walk on that bridge until my Son was raised up. This is why he said, “If I am lifted up high I will draw everything to myself.”

When my goodness saw that you could be drawn in no other way, I sent him to be lifted onto the wood of the cross. I made of that cross an anvil where this child of humankind could be hammered into an instrument to release humankind from death and restore it to the life of grace. *In this way he drew everything to himself: for he proved his unspeakable love, and the human heart is always drawn by love. He could not have shown you greater love than by giving his life for you. You can hardly resist being drawn by love, then, unless you foolishly refuse to be drawn.*



Nothing would benefit us more than to meditate on “this great love” throughout this Lenten period
Karolyn W. Smith, O.P.L. kwsmith@optonline.net



Question of Faith

Continuation...Nov./Dec. *eLumen* Question of Faith: “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?”

The answer that was given was unacceptable to some, probably because the answer was “No.” But since the response to this question was more than any other question has ever elicited, I’ve reopened the discussion. Much to my surprise, I didn’t know there were so many people in this “inactive” state. Could it possibly be that there are more “inactive” than active Dominican Laity?

Some people who are inactive:

- † A quadriplegic who can’t get to his chapter, yet he writes for the Dominic Torch, runs his own web site, and other religious publications—hardly “inactive”.
- † People who are “snow birds”—they go to Florida for 3-6 months—not “inactive” in the sense we mean, especially if they attend Chapter in Florida.
- † Laity who work on their Chapter meeting day. Anne who is a Pastoral Assistant and as such the weekends are her busiest days. Andy who is Director of Religious Education and works every Sunday--his Chapter’s meeting day. How could anyone consider these Laity “inactive” ?
- † People who have no transportation. Living in the city is no problem, thanks to public transportation, but the suburbs are a different matter. They are forced to be “inactive.”
- † Laity whose chapters have dissolved, and there are no nearby chapters. It is not their choice to be “inactive.”
- † Laity whose chapter have dissolved, and no nearby chapters appeals to them. (Don’t dismiss this as a frivolous and unworthy objection. The apostolate of the Hope of Bethany Pro-Chapter in Sherborne, MA is to support prisoners, their families, and those newly released from prison. This type of apostolate does not appeal to everybody.) In this case, the Lay Dominican is forced to choose an “inactive” state.
- † Chapters who freeze certain Laity out because they are deemed “divisive” or “trouble makers.” (This **is** conceptually a frivolous and an unworthy objection, however in reality...sigh....). In these cases, the Lay Dominican is again forced to be “inactive.”
- † Those that have moved away from a Dominican Chapter. Work transfers, and family reasons may result in the Lay Dominican becoming “inactive.”
- † Those that are too elderly and frail and are more or less house-bound. Are we to consider those who pray “inactive”?
- † Don’t forget our “cloistered brothers.” Our prison ministry is growing: Norfolk, Louisville, Trenton, Ohio. These unique situations call for creative outreach. They may be “inactive” in terms of our provincial activities, but in their incarcerated community they are preaching Jesus Christ in various apostolates.

† Finally, because of a bizarre set of distressing circumstances, I, your humble news letter editor finds herself in this exact “inactive” status,” of which I speak. (God’s sense of humor? Divine retribution? Holy Spirit moving? ????) Without boring you with unnecessary details, I have been struck with a couple of auto-immune diseases. The result being that I can’t attend my chapter. Hopefully, some day, I may be healthy enough to attend some chapter, and if God wills, my own Our Lady of Mercy Chapter at MCI Norfolk, MA. I am telling you this, not only to ask for your prayers, not only to see the irony of the situation, but also to get you, my brothers and sisters to reconsider this “inactive” status. I am NOT “inactive.” I edit *eLumen*. I contribute to the *Dominican Torch*. And as long as I’m still alive, I’ll preach through my poetry. I am NOT “inactive.” But what is to become of me? I have no chapter. Where can I go?

Please send your suggestions as to what to do with all of us “inactives,” to Faith Flaherty, r.f.flaherty@comcast.net Next month’s April *eLumen* will pull all of your suggestions together and hopefully we can come up with a feasible idea. This is certainly a BIG “Question of Faith!” †



• **Credits**

Any News? If you have any chapter or regional news, email them to your Regional Editor (see below).

Stories, articles, poems, photographs, essays, etc., go Mary Fisk at the Dominican Torch: maryfisk2006@comcast.net or send snail mail to 11411 Glen Rd., Potomac, MD 20854.

Thank you.

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Holy Father Dominic, Pray for us.

