



OPFAM

Dominican Family Matters: 13.03.2018

*Contemplate the Gospel of Humanity
then preach the Humanity of the Gospel*

A Newsletter for the Dominican Family in Australia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea

From Da Nang to Doubleview: the journey of St Dominic's Statue

A new statue of St Dominic has made its way safely from the Marble Mountains of Vietnam to the hillside parish church of Doubleview in Perth. Commissioned by Doubleview's former parish priest, Peter Nguyen OP, the statue is the centrepiece of the entrance to the newly-completed Rosary Community Centre in Woodlands. The centre is part of a new complex that also includes a Dominican Priory and offices and meeting venues.

The half-tonne, life-size statue, modelled on a much-admired rendition of St Dominic in the Philippines, has been a work in progress for almost a year. It was carved by a team at the leading sculpture manufacturer, Le Phat, in Vietnam's Da Nang province.

Sr Du Nguyen OP from the Congregation of Rosa de Lima, in Saigon, supervised the commission from the factory which is about half an hour away. It's run by a cousin of one of the nuns and has supplied many statues and sculptures to the convent and to customers worldwide. Sr Maria says of Le Phat: "He is the chief sculptor and the best."

Da Nang is famous for its magnificent white marble and has a long history as a source of statues. It was colonised by the French in 1858 who ranked it alongside Hanoi, Saigon, Haiphong, and Hue, as one of Indochina's five major centres. In 1936, French archaeologists established the Cham Museum, which houses a fine collection of Champa Kingdom-era statues, reliefs and other artwork depicting daily life from the fourth to fourteenth centuries.

The Marble Mountains are a cluster of five hills made from limestone and marble in coastal Da Nang province south of the city. The area is renowned for stone-cutting and sculpture. Its "carving village" is known as the home of Vietnamese marble, a metamorphosed rock of outstanding quality.

"We chose the best marble in Vietnam to make St Dominic," says Sr Maria. The team of sculptors modelled the design on a photo she supplied from her Filipino travels.

She ordered it in the first half of last year and it took about three months to sculpt and then another month to ship to port. It arrived in an open timber crate and plastic wrapping at Fremantle harbour in mid-October.

The building team at Our Lady of the Rosary parish in Doubleview took delivery of it in November but had to initially store it on the front steps of the church. Four days before Christmas, they managed to move it close to its final destination in a courtyard behind the entrance of the new community centre.

Two months later a system was devised for freeing the statue from its crate and timber pallet base, using a gantry, chain block and sling.

Under the guidance of new parish priest, Peter Hoang OP, St Dominic was lowered to the ground and gently manoeuvred into position.

The sculpture features a timber walking staff which will be ceremoniously placed in the pilgrim preacher's open hand as part of the blessing and official opening of the priory and community centre on 11 March. *Kevin Susai, on behalf of the Parish Community.*



Dominican Sister of Peace Judy Morris OP Stands for 'Dreamers' 6 March 2018

Sr Judy Morris OP is taken into custody by Capital police on February 27 during a peaceful demonstration to protect those affected by DACA.



Washington, DC – Sr Judy Morris OP was one of 40 Catholic faith leaders taken into police custody on February 27 2018, in a peaceful demonstration in Washington, DC. Sr Judy was part of an action by *Faith in Public Life* to demand immediate action by the House of Representatives to create a clean path to citizenship for participants in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, known as Dreamers. Several hundred Catholic faith leaders and laity took part in the peaceful protest. Sr Judy and the other participants in this action were arrested outside in the Russell Office Building in the Rotunda.

“Today’s demonstration was a profound experience of solidarity with our sister Congregations, lay people, priests – a remarkable effort to speak truth to power and to defend the marginalized in our society,” Sr Judy said after she was released from custody. “Creating a clean path to citizenship for the Dreamers is simply Justice 101 – and it is our duty to come together to demand this action from our elected representatives.”

The Catholic Church supports the Dreamers, and calls on the faithful to ask their members of Congress to find a bipartisan legislative solution to protect Dreamers.”

The Dominican Sisters of Peace are in full support of Sr. Judy’s actions and will continue to advocate for our nation’s immigrants.