



# OPFAM

**Dominican Family Matters: 1.8.2018**

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

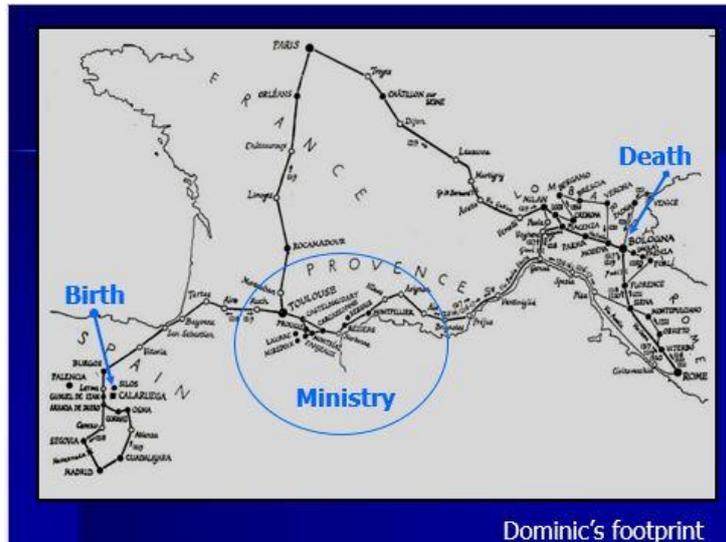
A Newsletter for the Dominican Family in Australia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea

## **Feast of St Dominic 2018**



*A new image of St Dominic, by Rose McAllister of San Clemente High School Newcastle,  
finds a home in the Solomon Islands*

St Dominic (c. 1173-1221) was born in Castile, now northern Spain and ordained to the priesthood c.1190. Two missionary trips to Denmark with his mentor Diego, Bishop of Osma, sparked in him a strong desire to combat the false news of his day around the Gospel story. Both he and Diego set off preaching in the south of France, poor strangers,— just as Jesus said to those he sent out to proclaim the Kingdom (Luke 9:3), “take nothing for the journey, neither a staff, nor a bag, nor bread, nor money . . .”



For Dominic, preaching was not so much standing on a street corner and admonishing passers-by to believe. Rather it was a revolutionary call to return to our Christian and Apostolic roots: to go where God’s people are and to be with them, sharing their lives. Dominic believed that his particular charism was to bring brothers and sisters together to be equipped spiritually and intellectually for their vocation IN the world. And for him, preaching was not what a person “does”; it was a complete way of living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Author, Fr Simon Tugwell OP, wrote these words in his Saint Dominic & the Order of Preachers:

“The Church, in the words of Psalm 44, has always been ‘clothed in variety’, not the least splendid aspect of which is the variety of her saints. Some become a kind of living image of holiness, attracting veneration during their life-time and becoming objects of cult as soon as they are dead. They leave behind them, in the imagination of succeeding ages, a vivid remembrance of what they were. The figure of St Francis, for instance, has haunted and inspired the Church ever since he died in 1226.

“Other saints are, as it were, more coy, and hide behind the works which live after them and the ideals which they prompted others to follow. Their individual personalities make less impression on the Church’s memory; like signposts, they point away from themselves. People may come to forget them as individuals, but they cannot escape for long from the ideals for which they stood.

“St Dominic is one of the coy saints. When he died in 1221, the Order which he had established buried him, sadly and affectionately, and then got on with the job he had given them. Unlike the Franciscans, they made no attempt to turn their founder into an object of cult; nor did they immediately start writing up his life to publicize his personal holiness. The earliest life that we have of Dominic is not called ‘A Life of St Dominic’, but ‘A Little Book about the Beginnings of the Order of Preachers’.

“In his life-time, Dominic had wished to be treated simply as one of the brethren, and his dying wish was that he should be buried beneath their feet. It is quite in accordance with

his own temperament that he should live on in the Church, not as a striking individual, but in the work of preaching the gospel, for which his Order came into being...

“In one sense, the life of Dominic in this world ended in August 1221, though his memory lives on in the hearts of his family of friars and nuns, sisters and laity. But in another sense, the world still hears his voice, even if it does not recognise it as his. As St Catherine of Siena says, ‘The voice of Dominic’s preaching is still heard today and will continue to be heard’ in the preaching of his followers.”

O God of the prophets,  
You opened the eyes of Your servant Dominic  
to the false news about the Gospel message  
Your people were receiving during his times.

You moved Dominic,  
and those he drew about him,  
to attempt to satisfy that hunger for Truth  
with sound preaching and gospel living.

May we followers of Dominic, in this age,  
courageously address the hunger of our world for all that is true,  
in deed and in relationship in accordance with the Gospel.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our brother,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

May we celebrate our diversity as we honour our shared Dominican heritage.

## [Informing our Dominican Voices as we prepare for the Australian Plenary Council of 2020](#)

### ***Synodality in Practice: Listening to the Spirit and Leading Change***

This 14th National eConference will focus on engaging communities around Australia in a landmark discussion around the future vision and direction for the Catholic Church in the country.

This discussion is timed to coincide with the 2020 Plenary Council - the first such synod for the Australian Church in 80 years.

#### **Video On-Demand**

To ensure that all viewers of the eConference can benefit equally from the experience, no matter where they are located, BBI-TAITE will be pre-recording this year's eConference, making it available for **viewing by the public for two weeks**, for free.

#### **Event Details**

**Topic:** Synodality in Practice: Listening to the Spirit and Leading Change.

**Starts:** 10.00am (AEST) Wednesday 8 August

**Ends:** 5.00pm (AEST) Wednesday 22 August

**You are able to link in at any time, day or night, watch all sessions at once, or one at a time, during this two week slot, provided you are registered.** Watch in a group – link a computer to a TV screen – or by yourself.

**Registration:** Free but mandatory.

<https://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/short-courses/2018/eConference>

- The link to the eConference will be sent to those who register.
- Group Facilitators can register on behalf of a group, it is not necessary to provide each participant's details.
- The eConference will not be available for download.
- An eConference DVD will be produced after the event, and will be available for purchase at \$29.95 (including free postage within Australia).

### **eConference Program**

**Welcome** (Opening Prayer; Acknowledgement of Country)

**Session 1-***Leaders That Listen: Synodality in Practice* - Archbishop Mark Coleridge

**Session 2-***Synodality in Practice- Preparing for the Council* - Ms Lana Turvey-Collins

**Session 3-***Structures of Synodality: Insights from Pope Francis* - Professor Massimo Faggioli

**Morning Tea**

**Session 4-***Synodality, Community and the Margins*- Dr Gemma Cruz

**Session 5-***Change and the Church's Traditions*- Professor Richard Lennan

**Lunch and facilitator's discussion break**

**Q&A Panel** - Facilitated by ABC Religion Presenter Noel Debien

**Closing prayer & thanks**

Please send any material to [archives5@bigpond.com](mailto:archives5@bigpond.com)