



OPFAM

Dominican Family Matters

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

Woe to us if we do not preach the Gospel!

Motto for the years leading up to 800th celebration in 2016;

12th April 2011

**“We hear them speaking in our own tongues of the marvellous acts of God” (Acts 2:11):
Preaching and Culture / Community Preaching**

Dominican Thought For the Week

For Christians, Jesus is the fulfillment of all that God has promised. In his words, deeds and destiny, the Reign of God is revealed as God's commitment to humanity as a genuine possibility. Jesus is the anticipation in time of the destiny of history. 'God's will' will be done! God's promises will be fulfilled. It is on this fundamental act of faith that hope receives its impetus to keep on building the kingdom of God despite present difficulties.' *Fr Ed. Ruane OP*

We continue to remember in prayer our Dominican brothers and sisters in countries affected by natural disasters and political strife.

A prayer after an Earthquake

Creator God, at times such as this,
when we realised that the ground beneath our feet is not as solid as we had imagined,
we plead for your mercy.
As the things we have built crumble,
we know too well how small we truly are on this ever-changing, ever-moving,
fragile planet we call home.
Yet you have promised never to forget us.
Do not forget us now.
Today, so many people are afraid.
They wait in fear of the next tremor.
They hear the cries of the injured amid the rubble.
They roam the streets in shock at what they see.
And they fill the dusty air with wails of grief and the names of missing dead.
Comfort them, O God, in this disaster.
Be their rock when the earth refuses to stand still,
and shelter them under your wings when homes and offices no longer exist.
Embrace in your arms those who died so suddenly.
Console the hearts of those who mourn,
and ease the pain of bodies on the brink of death.
Pierce, too, our hearts with compassion, we who watch from afar,
as our friends and relatives experience misery upon misery.
Move us to act swiftly this day,
to give generously every day, to work for justice always,
and to pray unceasingly for those without hope.
And once the shaking has ceased,
the images of destruction have stopped filing the news,
and our thoughts return to life's daily rumblings,
let us not forget that we are all your children
and they, our sisters and brothers.
We are all the work of your hands.
For though the mountains leave their place and the hills be tossed to the ground,
your love shall never leave us and your promise of peace will never be shaken.

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
And grant us your salvation.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth,
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Now and forever. Amen.

Copyright 2010, Diana Macalintal. Permission is given to reprint for non-commercial use

Bringing Faith to the marketplace

Dominican Father Tony Wall thinks Catholics should spend more time living out their faith in the marketplace. That's why he spent every day, except Sunday, for a month in Portland's Lloyd Center Mall. Father Wall, a priest for 60 years, wore his Roman collar or white friar's habit, simply making himself obvious for those yearning to talk about life's greater issues.

"People don't meet priests any more. We are hiding in the rectory," says Father Wall, who has moved on to lead missions from the Dominicans' California headquarters. He plans to return to Portland at the start of 2012 for another month of mall evangelization. "Jesus sent people out on the road," explains the 86-year-old friar, who helped found the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif. "St. Dominic was out in the crossroads and at the inns. He was not waiting for people to find him."

Educated in Rome during the 1940s, Father Wall counted the future Pope John Paul II among his classmates. He served in parishes and was a teacher before starting the Berkeley project. He served as president of the theological union for two terms. Then he joined the Dominican preaching band, men who give retreats on the road in honor of the itinerant charism of their 13th century founder.

In Mexico on a mission, he met a priest from St. Charles Borromeo Church in Harlem. The pastor said his church counted as many as 339 converts in a year and attributed that to the habit of priests standing out on Harlem street corners to engage the people and give them cards with Mass times.

When he visited Holy Rosary Parish in Portland, just down the street from Lloyd Center, he got thinking. There is no priest at the mall, and there should be.

"We are no longer a missionary church," Father Wall says of Catholics. "We are an absolutely passive church. We stand back." Mall officials were receptive. There were limitations, however. Father Wall had to stay put in one place. Amplification and big signage was out. That all suited the priest just fine. On weekdays, he chose a bench and sat, smiling. On weekends, he donned the habit and rented a kiosk near Macy's and filled it with free crucifixes, rosaries, holy cards and sacred medals.

Many shoppers asked who he was and that led to encounters, some brief, some lengthy. Everyone seemed impressed that a man representing deep matters had set up in a place devoted to fashion, skin products and fast food. He heard several confessions.

"People are hungry to have the church stand up and say, 'Come, come, come,'" Father Wall says. "I think every big mall in the country should have a Catholic presence. All I think the church needs to do is rent a chair and have a priest sit there and have a sign that says, 'Have a question? Ask a priest.'" Mall security guards took a special shine to the priest. They passed a hat several times and gave him the money to further his work.

Mary Halvorsen is not surprised the priest had that effect on the mall workers.

"Father Tony had a great method of engaging passersby," says Halvorsen, prioress of the Holy Rosary Dominican Laity, a group that helped the priest on many days. "People just naturally were drawn to him. Father would ask those people what their names were and would tell them what their name meant in Latin or Greek or what saint was connected to their name. Some would be shy and say they knew a Catholic or used to be a Catholic."

Halvorsen says other vendors in the area would come introduce themselves to the priest.

"People are hungry for God even if they don't know it and when they are fed by a gentle, holy man they are filled with gratitude and joy," she concludes.

As for Father Wall, he talks a lovely torrent that puts everyone he meets at ease. Within the amicability, though, he has an urgent message. "What we Catholics need is a four letter word — a little bit of z-e-a-l," he says. "And you have these zealous lay people just waiting for someone to point them the way and say, 'Go.' www.op.org

Justice and Peace office at the United Nations in Geneva –

During the month of March, the UN Assembly based in Geneva listens and discusses the various Reports which are presented to the Assembly of Delegates about the Situation of Human Rights in particular Countries or Regions of the World. Our Dominican Family is

present in all these events through our permanent Delegate to the UN, Bro. Olivier Poquillon, O.P., as part of the Advocacy work of the Order for human rights. From the 10th to the 13th of March, Bro. Carlos Rodriguez Linera, O.P., Promoter for Justice and Peace, accompanied by Bro. Olivier participated in those debates on human rights issues in specific areas of the world, where our brothers and sisters are more at risk. The main issues debated during those days were: 'Blasphemy law' in Pakistan; 'Defaming Religion'; 'Children's rights and Children's right to education'. In all these debates, the dignity of the human person was placed over and above any law that protects the rights of particular groups or interests. We remind all our brothers and sisters that, Dominicans for Justice and Peace is an instrument at our service for all our Dominican brothers and sisters; it is a platform, at the international level, that serves as an extension of their local work for justice and allows them to speak the truth to the Nations on situations of human rights violations. Please visit Dominican Network, the site of the Delegation of the Order of Preachers to the United Nations or contact its Director, Bro. Olivier Poquillon op: email: contact@un.op.org

IDI

There are usually no Dominican Feasts celebrated during Lenten days.

Please send contributions – short paragraphs – about Dominican Life in your area to archives5@bigpond.com.au – OFTEN!