



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; 2010 – "The Mission of Preaching"

12th October 2010

We give thanks to God
for the wonderful life and powerful example of
Saint Mary Mackillop
and pray that she will continue to inspire her Sisters
to walk in her footsteps among the poor and disadvantaged.

We can delight in the fact that she and St Dominic share a feast day
in Australia and New Zealand.

There are a number of Dominican connections. One of Mary's chief advisors in Rome was Fr Raymund Bianci OP – who rewrote the Rule she had proposed in a form that could be approved by Rome. Mary was well known to our Sisters in Adelaide, and despite their being given her convent and school after her excommunication, relationships seem to have been warm and real between them. There is historical evidence too, that Mary was known personally by Mother M. Agnes Bouke (Foundress) and Mother M. Bertrand Walsh, among others, of the Dominican Sisters of NSW at the time. Mary also handed over her St Joseph's Convent and 'Poor School' at Moss Vale, NSW, so that the Dominican Sisters could keep their Rule which stated that they must provide an education for all classes of people. And of course, many of us in the Dominican Family were given our primary education by Mary's daughters, the Sisters of St Joseph.

We pray that Mary will continue to be a guide and inspiration for all those who provide a Catholic education in our country. May the example of her life, and her canonisation fill us all with hope and joy, and give us courage as we continue on our personal road to holiness.

Let us pray

Holy God, source of all goodness,

you show us in St Mary Mackillop

a woman of faith living by the power of the cross.

Teach us, we pray, to embrace what she pioneered,

that like her we may show to the world

new ways of living the Gospel

that respect and defend the human dignity of all in our land.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

Dominican Thought for the Week

The Dominican Family is our common home....One of our biggest challenges is building a shared consciousness of the Order as the place where we all belong...

Many little tensions within the Dominican Family, such as who can put which initials after their names, who can wear the habit and when, are symptoms of this more important and deeper longing, for friendship, for a home, to belong, to have one's assured place at the table or around the cooking pot. In the past we used to belong to the First, Second and Third Order.

This terminology was abolished at the General Chapter of River Forest in 1968, to make plain our equality. No one is first or second or third class. Together we must find ways to build that common home.

And it should be an open home, which welcomes the friends of our friends, which welcomes new groups whose Dominican identity is not, perhaps, clear, but who want to be part of the Family. The friendship that Jesus offers is wide and open. He welcomes in everyone. He gets impatient when the disciples try to stop someone preaching because they do not belong to the group of the disciples. He does not shut doors, but bursts through them. Let us embody that big-hearted friendship, Dominic's magnanimity. Let us be a sign of that welcome, so that we may all be at ease in Dominic's Family. May Dominic liberate us from the fear that locks the doors. *Timothy Radcliffe OP, in I Call You Friends, Continuum, P.158f*

Help Timor-Leste's Orphans Reach Self-Sufficiency

Catholic Mission Media Release October 2010

You've probably read this statement many times, but the biggest cost incurred by orphanages is food. Many orphanages around the world with land nearby attempt self-sufficiency by planting vegetables, fruit and nut trees and if they're fortunate, they'll keep livestock too. This is all providing that they live in an environment conducive to growing. There is, of course, the cost of purchasing the land itself.

This World Mission Month story is about two orphanages run by the Missionary Dominican Sisters of the Rosary in Timor-Leste, supported by Catholic Mission. It's a story about how one parcel of land can bring self-sufficiency to two 'growing' communities of children. Yes, and it's a story about how you can help them realise their goal.

One is in the suburb of Bidau in Dili and the other is seven hours out of Dili by four-wheel drive in the mountains in the town of Soibada. At the Bidau Home there are 52 orphans, ranging in age from four years to 22 years, while at Soibada there are 74 children. The children have come from varied backgrounds and circumstances. Some came from losing parents during Indonesian occupation, others lost parents in the vicious backlash to the 1999 independence referendum. Sadly, newer residents have lost parents or carers during the civil unrest in 2006.

These children are at the orphanage because the sisters will not turn a single one away. They are children whose extended families cannot adequately care for them anymore. The older young adults among them have become role models of a supportive family to the youngest.

Joao (or John) is the eldest young man still in the sisters' care, and has completed his secondary studies and is now in his second year of civil engineering at the state university. Another young man, Roger has been with the sisters for more than nine years is now seriously investigating religious life with the Dominican Fathers. Juliette, 17 years, and Jenny, 16, have been with the sisters since they were babies. They have both completed high school and are currently doing their first year as aspirants with the sisters. Dominic is the youngest of the children under the sisters' care. He's not quite five years old, but is certainly at home with his many older brothers and sisters. Everyone looks out for each other at the orphanage. Dominic is preparing for his first year at school. All of the children are given every opportunity possible, as they are the future of the parish, the community and the country.

The orphanage has to provide for all the basic needs of the children including clothing, food, school materials and school fees and health costs when necessary. Running costs for the home in Bidau alone are nearly \$30,000 per year. The biggest cost to the sisters, not surprisingly, is food.

To alleviate this cost the goal is to become self-sufficient. The Dominicans have begun the process of purchasing two and a half hectares of land outside the capital Dili. They have raised half the funds themselves, and are looking to Catholic Mission to assist with the other half, a further \$30,000. The deposit they put down on the land has already paid a dividend: permission to harvest bananas from the property, a treat the children enjoy. Improvements to the land include fencing off half of it and sinking a well that now provides running water. The next step is to install a pump and build a shed for farming tools.

Long term, the sisters aspire to establish a maternity support centre on the property for at-risk mothers in the area, and their children, providing them with education, life skills and

catechism classes. To facilitate this, the sisters plan on building cottage accommodation, a multi-purpose hall, and communal kitchen and toilet amenities. Once that infrastructure is set up, the centre could also be hired out to non-government organisations that are running their own training courses.

Eleven years after their heroic vote for independence there remains in Timor-Leste a critical management and skills shortage that will take years to fill. Infrastructure for training is also in short supply and its hiring can provide an income stream for the congregation. Catholic Mission's support of communities, like these in Timor-Leste, means that the people can feel confident, knowing that they have the opportunities previously unavailable to them. Our support gives the people a sense of solidarity with us.

In World Mission Month we ask that you donate to our younger Churches all over the world. Call 1 800 257 296 to donate, or donate online at www.catholicmission.org.au

New Book on Lectionary Readings

Sunday Matters: Reflections on the Lectionary Readings for Year A by Mark O'Brien OP at Library, Catholic Institute of Sydney, 99 Albert Rd, Strathfield on 22 October at 4.00pm
RSVP: (08) 83543 2299 by 13 October.
The launch will also take place at St Dominic's East Camberwell, Melbourne on 21st October.

Congratulations and best wishes Mark! We look forward to using your material.

This book is in the Dominican series, and can also be purchased on line through

<http://www.atfpress.com/atfpress/book.php?ID=137>

Australian Theological Forum Publications

Dominican Family working for justice – not an option but a Gospel imperative:

Sisters, friars, lay Dominicans, associates, colleagues, friends in the Melbourne area are invited to gather with Anne Gibbins and Rose Kinne OP to share some experiences of the *Asia-Pacific Justice, Peace and the Care of Creation conference, Sawangan, Indonesia, July, 2010* on Sunday, 24th October at 7.00 pm in the Parish Centre, St Dominic's Camberwell, OR on Monday, 25th October at 1.30 pm at Siena Convent, 12 Compton St, Canterbury. Contact person: Sr Janet Ryan, sienadom@bigpond.net.au or 03 9836 0253.

The Dominican Family in the Sydney area will have a similar opportunity on Sunday, 21st November, at 1.30pm at 'Rosary Lodge', Santa Sabina, The Boulevard Strathfield. Contact person: Sr Rose Mary Kinne, domadmin@opeast.org.au or 02 9744 9511

The Dominican Preaching Team – Mike Champlin, Joan Bukrey and Nick Punch are now arranging their preaching schedules in Australia and New Zealand for 2011 and 2012. In 2011 we will be available from late August till November, and 2012 from after Easter till the end of July. If you know of any parishes that may be interested in a renewal/mission, we will contact the parishes (with your endorsement!). Please let me know at nicktmc@centurytel.net.
www.thomasmorecenter.org

Dominican Calendar

Oct-13 Bl. Madeline Panattieri (1433-1503) Italian, celebrated preacheress, adviser, Lay Dominican.

Oct-14 Bl. Marie Poussepin (1653-1744) Originally a Lay Dominican, then a Sister and foundress, served the youth, the poor and the sick.

Oct-19 Bl. Agnes of Langéac, Foundress.

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