



OPFAM

Dominican Family Matters

A Newsletter for the Dominican Family in Australia,
New Zealand, Solomon Islands 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;

13th September 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

Letter to a friend, Augustinian friar Felice da Massa, who had gone with Catherine of Siena to Avignon; this passage at the end of a late 1377 letter describes (and exemplifies) Catherine's own rhetorical method:

And let the truth be your delight; let it always be in your mouth, and proclaim it when it is needed. Proclaim it lovingly and to everyone, especially those whom you love with a special love--but with a certain congeniality, putting the shortcomings of the other person on your own shoulders. If in the past you haven't done it as sensitively as you should, let's do better in the future.

Thank you, Sisters – and God bless

Not a heading found often in the front section of a newspaper!! The Northern Daily Leader in Tamworth expressed well the feelings of so very many people about 135 years of devoted service among the people of Tamworth and its environs. There seemed to be photographers at every corner, and Dominican ex-students from Tamworth and beyond, who came to make themselves known. Several newspaper articles, radio and television broadcasts left no one in any doubt that God's work has been done and amongst people of all denominations. The Sisters' presence not only made a difference, but they were assured repeatedly that the Dominican Spirit continues, alive and well, and will be carried forward because of the strong tree tended by generation after generation of faith-filled people.

Forty Sisters travelled from near and far to support the local community and to ritualize the withdrawal of the Sisters from the diocese. On Saturday morning the Sisters celebrated their own moving liturgical farewell, and then took a bus trip around Tamworth, acknowledging schools and parishes in which they had ministered. The cemeteries containing the remains of eight Sisters were visited, and the 'Salve Regina' sung. Finally they arrived at the old convent, now the Conservatorium of Music, for afternoon tea and a concert. The trowel used by Bishop Torregianni to lay the foundation stone of this former convent was presented to the Conservatorium for safe-keeping, in gratitude for all that the Conservatorium has done to preserve the story, and the integrity of the building. This was especially fitting as the Sisters are credited with bringing music and a rich cultural life as they grew with the city when it was proclaimed a municipality in 1876.

On Sunday, the Bishop, the mayor, state and federal members of parliament joined the parish community for a beautiful Mass of Thanksgiving at which the Sisters presented their statue of St Dominic to the parish. A parish dinner followed.

The Sisters are keenly aware of the wonderful faith-filled people – clergy, religious and lay people, of all denominations – who shared over 250 Sisters' lives and enriched them by their encouragement and support, socially and financially, through all the ups and downs of this life journey so closely intertwined with the growth and development of the city of Tamworth. Only God can give them adequate thanks.

Sisters will of course, continue to link in to warm longtime friendships, and will continue to accompany the Dominican laity and associates, and to visit our centenarian Sr M. Ursula, so well cared for at Nazareth House. However, with pain and deep gratitude, Sisters realize it is time for them to move on, time to recognize their own liminality, time to meet new needs that God has ready for them. A book about the 135 years in Tamworth can be obtained from archives5@bigpond.com

Another Sister whose life made a difference

Sister Louise Timpany OP, aged 90 years, died in Dunedin on the feast of Corpus Christi, 26 June 2011. Sister Louise was a much loved member of the New Zealand Dominican Sisters for 69 years. She spent most of her religious life ministering to the Deaf Community, both children and adults. She was their mentor and advocate, and missed no opportunity to talk to politicians and educators about the needs of deaf people – especially on employment and other social issues, and the provision of counsellors. Also, she was not slow to approach Church leaders to bring to their attention the need for pastoral workers and chaplains.

In recognition of Sister Louise's ministry to the deaf, she was awarded an MBE in 1971. At the presentation of this award, Sir Arthur Porritt, then Governor-General of New Zealand, described her as "a monument to patient perseverance, to devoted care and understanding."

In her 'retirement', Sister Louise continued her ministry using the pen and fax machine to keep in contact with deaf people and their families, right up until the week before she died. She is greatly missed by her Dominican and Deaf Communities. (*NZ Dominican Sisters*)

International Meeting of Lay Dominicans

July 28th-30th the International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities (ICLDF) met at the Rosaryville Spirit Life Centre in Ponchatoula, LA, USA, for their 4th annual meeting. This council consists of 5 Lay Dominicans representing 5 continental regions from across the world and the promoter general for the Dominican Laity. The current council members are: Mrs June Ross OP Asia/Pacific Delegate; Mrs Adenike Emeke OP African Delegate; Ms Eva Kameniarová OP European; Susana Brittos OP Latin America; and the Caribbean Delegate Mr Bruce Trigo OP North American Delegate; fr David Kammler OP Promoter General of the Dominican Laity.

This council was officially established with approved statutes at the International Congress of Lay Dominicans held in Pilar Argentina in 2007. Since this time the members of the council, who serve for a non-renewal 3 year term, work in collaboration primarily through the internet, using both email and phone communications, and meet in person every July to coincide with the completion of the previous term year and the beginning of a new term year.

The ICLDF works primarily to "promote greater communications between Lay Dominican Fraternities" (ICLDF statutes) and also to promote greater communication with other branches of the order. An example of this was the discussion of a proposal by fr. Bruno Cadoré, OP, to establish an International Commission of the Dominican family. The master sent the ICLDF a letter requesting a representative of the Laity to be part of a commission to study this proposal in Santa Sabina on September 10th-11th, 2011. Mr Gabriel Silva OP, of Portugal will be representing the Lay Dominican Fraternities on this commission.

Additionally the ICLDF members will encourage their regions to foster better communications through the establishment of a new international web page <http://frat.op.org/> collaborate with the other Dominican Family members regarding - Jubilee Theme of 2014 – "Dominican Laity and Preaching". We also strive to spend time in prayer and fellowship with the local Dominican Family.

500th Anniversary

Wonderful resources for Social Justice issues, with special emphasis on the Montesinos Story, and the presence of the Order in South America over 500 years. The Site is www.domlife.org

Coming Events

The Theology behind Fra Angelico's Paintings

Presenter: Bishop Anthony Fisher OP

Date: 14 September 2011; **Time:** 7pm – 9pm

Venue: Institute for Mission, 1-5 Marion St Blacktown **Cost:** donation

Booking Essential: 9831 4911 or mh@instituteformission.com.au

Invitation from Holy Name Wahroonga: to join in an inaugural annual Dominican celebration honouring the Dominican heritage deeply appreciated by parishioners, on Sunday 18 September, commencing with Mass at 9.15am, followed by a Parish Picnic in the beautiful grounds surrounding Holy Name. All welcome!

Pilgrims of Truth, Pilgrims of Peace

You are invited to attend this gathering which will coincide with the invitation from Pope Benedict XVI to leaders of the world's religious traditions to gather in Assisi for a **prayer day of peace**. Women are leaders in promoting peace in their neighbourhoods, communities and workplaces. This gathering is an opportunity to pray for peace and to learn about vehicles to promote peace and justice in our world.

Keynote speaker: Sr Trish Madigan OP is Chair of the Commission for Interfaith Relations in the Diocese of Broken Bay and Director of CIMER (Dominican Centre for Interfaith Ministry and Research – www.cimer.org.au). She recently returned from Northern Iraq where she took part in a research project "Three Generations of Women in Iraq."

A gathering of reflection, dialogue and prayer for peace and justice in the world.

When: 27 – 28 October **Where:** Mary MacKillop Place, 80 William St, North Sydney

Cost: \$130 full program

More info: Kim Davis, director.opw@catholic.org.au (02) 6201 9867 RSVP: 7 October 2011

Sponsored by the Bishops Commission for Church Ministry

Dominican Calendar

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| Sep-14 | Triumph of the Holy Cross
Feastday of Holy Cross Congregation of Dominican Sisters, Cabra Adelaide |
| Sep-18 | St. John Macias (1585-1645) [M] Spanish-born Peruvian, cooperator brother, worker among the poor, miracle-worker, friend of St. Martin de Porres (Nov. 3), canonized 1980. |
| Sep-20 | Bl. Mark of Modena (+1498) Italian, priest, studious contemplative whose preaching converted many.

Bl. Francis de Posadas (1644-1713) Spanish, priest, celebrated preacher, reformer, worker among the poor, author. |

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