



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”

14th December 2010



“Christmas, the remembrance of the birth of Jesus, is not a remembrance at all. It is an awareness that grows in us from day to day all our lives. Christmas, the consciousness of eternal Life among us, is not a feast day, it is a ferial day that never ends. It is a call to make today better than yesterday because on a day just like today, Christ did it before us.”

May each of you be filled with joy as you celebrate this great event, blessed with that ever growing awareness of all that is meant by ‘Emmanuel – God with us’.

Dominican Thought for the Week

Dominican spirituality is incarnational, enmeshed in the human condition and the Cross of Jesus. It does not flee the world, rather the world is a friend, if a wounded friend. Dominic’s itinerant life style, his insistence on mobility, a democratic system of government, the supremacy of the General Chapter in the Order, the submission of his opinions to others, the law of dispensation, a simplified liturgy, the simplicity of Dominican buildings, his openness to new ideas and new charisms – all of these are aspects of his conviction of the need of apostolic freedom. His very spontaneity was a fruit of this apostolic freedom which he wished to inspire in his followers: the freedom to preach. There is nothing that frightens us more than freedom and the responsibility it imposes, but for Dominicans, as for others, it is not a matter of choice. It is an essential ingredient of Dominic’s spirit. We have not always been faithful to it. *Spirituality Today*

Congratulations

to our Solomonese Brothers Fr Stephen Kamoia and Fr Simon Suvenava, who celebrate their Silver Jubilee of Ordination this week

to Sisters Beth Egan, Joy Callcott, Geraldine Maher, Bernadette Murphy, Patricia Murray, Carmel Leavey and Helen Apthorpe (EA) who celebrate their Diamond Jubilee of Religious Profession on 16th December.

to Sisters Mary Rickards, Denise Sullivan and Margaret Blackford (EA) who celebrate their Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession on 31st December.

May you all be blessed with many graces and good health as you continue your ministries and your rich presence among the people of God.

Volunteer Recognition Award

“Awarded by the management and staff of Otago Corrections Facility to Dominican Group for your outstanding contribution to the rehabilitation and welfare of prisoners”

During the week for International Volunteers our community in Dunedin was surprised and very happy to be presented with the above award.

Sandra volunteers as a psychotherapist, Mary as a music therapist, Kevin as a visitor to those in need, Judith Anne as a tutor in spiritual growth and human development.

We were especially happy because we all believe in the privilege of sharing ourselves and our gifts with these men many of whom are wanting to change their lives.

Congratulations to all involved in this very worthwhile endeavour.

Dominican Laity Conference

Mrs Ester Tui OP, the Regional Coordinator for the Asia/Pacific has advised me that the usual Dominican Laity Conference and election of officers, will in future be held during the Dominican Family Asia/Pacific Conference which is to be held in Vietnam in 2012.

These Conferences are held every 3 years and it will mean better collaboration between the branches of the Dominican Family in the Region.

Previously Lay Dominicans met every 3 years but the meeting didn't coincide, which meant added expense to the participants having to fly to Manila and the following year to the Dominican Family Conference.

Approval has been given by Fr. Quirico T. Pedregosa, OP (Prior Provincial for the Philippines) Fr. Larry Singian, OP (Assistant to the Master for the Asia/Pacific Region) Fr. David. M. Kammler, OP (Promoter General for the Dominican Laity).

This will mean that Mrs. Ester Tui, OP will now continue for another year, to work as the Lay Dominican with the Committee which also includes a Friar, Sister, Nun, and a representative sub-committee from Vietnam, to make the necessary arrangements for the forthcoming Conference.

It also means that I will continue to represent the Asia/Pacific Region as the International Representative (ICLDF) for one more year. We look forward to 2012 and the Vietnam Conference which will enable us to meet some of the 104,000 Professed Lay Dominicans.

*Ms June Ross, OP International Council Lay Dominican Fraternities (ICLDF)
Representing the Asia/Pacific Region.*

Advent Evening Prayer

This Sunday at 5.30 pm, Santa Sabina Chapel, Strathfield, Sydney – All members of the Dominican Family are very welcome to pray with the Sisters as we begin the final week of preparation before Christmas.

Dominican Calendar

Dec-16 Bl. Sebastian Maggi (1414-1496) Italian, priest, celebrated preacher, reformer, confessor of Fra Girolamo Savonarola, O.P.; Fra. Girolamo was burned at the stake by order of Pope Alexander VI Borgia, 1498, for publicly criticizing the latter's immoral life style.

Dec-22 Anniversary of the Approval of the Order of Preachers (1216). The Dominican liturgical tradition gratefully commemorates Mary's intervention in starting and protecting the Order.

Jan-3 Bl. Stephanie Quinzani (1457-1530) Italian, mystic, sister.

Jan-4 St. Zedislava Berkiana (1221-1252) Lay Dominican and wife. Bohemian, she carefully raised four children and founded 2 Dominican priories, her charities, at times miraculously confirmed, abounded for the needy, the sick, and indigent families, she

died in her husband's arms. In 1989, through her intercession, a doctor was healed from a lengthy coma by a miracle. Canonized by John Paul II May 21, 1995, and established as a memorial.

Jan-7 St. Raymond of Peñafort (1175-1275) [M] Spanish, priest, canonist, diplomat, Third Master of the Order, Church appointed patron of canonists, canonized in 1601.

Jan-10 Bl. Gonsalvo of Amarante (+1259) Portuguese, priest, part-time hermit, miracle worker.
Bl. Ann of the Angels

Jan-11 Bl. Bernard Scammacca (1430-1487) [M] Sicilian, priest, penitent, mystic.

Jan-18 St. Margaret of Hungary (1242-1270) [M] [F for the nuns] Hungarian, virgin, royal princess, nun, mystic, canonized 1943.

Next OPFAM will appear after 17th January

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