



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;

14th June 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

It is quite clear that Catherine’s vision would not have us clinging to what has always been just because it had always been – or just because it was our best insight last year. We are not only *free* to let go of what no longer ‘works’ and to dare the new; we are *called* to it.

Frederick Beuchner has said: “The kind of work God usually calls you to is the kind of work that you need most to do and that the world most needs to have done... The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”...

So where do our passion, our competence, our resources, and the world’s need intersect today? I would suggest that it is in the integration of passionate contemplation and contemplative passion. It is of the essence of the Dominican way to live and to minister within and out of a contemplative attitude. We see everything and everyone through contemplative eyes, in the light of the Truth, the Love that is our ever-creating God. Our contemplation blasts us constantly out and out and out in service of that Truth and Love in our world, and what that world reveals to us drives us deeper into contemplation. It is not a balancing act between spirituality and the rest of life; it is our entire life, our entire spirituality. This I would suggest, is where our circles of passion, competence and resources intersect... For this it does not matter if we are young or old, many or few... *Sr Suzanne Noffke OP*

Funeral of a long-time Dominican

On 8 June 2011 the requiem Mass for Pat Williamson took place at St Mary’s Lane Cove, and it was a beautiful celebration of her life and a great expression of faith. Pat was a loyal and long-serving member of the Santa Sabina Chapter of the Laity. Pat’s niece, Mary, had prepared a beautiful Mass booklet and everything was celebrated with great dignity. We are sure Pat herself would have been very pleased with all the proceedings. Father Geoffrey Plant the PP, Father Bernard Maxwell OP (Canberra), and Father Dominic Murphy OP (who flew up from Melbourne) were the celebrants. There was a very good representation of the Dominican Family: Laity from Santa Sabina and Wahroonga; Ex-Students; and Sisters from various houses. Members from the church group Marrialac and Daughters of Charity also attended, as Pat belonged to the group in the parish. The Maitland Laity Chapter kindly sent a Mass Offering for Pat. Residents from her block of units, plus parishioners, cousins, fellow ex-students from her school days at Santa Sabina and other people of acquaintance made up a very good congregation, a fitting farewell for a woman of great faith and fidelity.

Dominican Laity Executive

For those in the know!! Dominican iPhone/iPad App

<http://www.dominicansinteractive.com> - On January 24th this year, Pope Benedict XVI released his comments for the 45th World Communications Day. In that message, he reminds all Catholics of the need to witness the truth in this new digital age of internet communication and social networking. He reminds us that, "there exists a Christian way of being present in

the digital world: this takes the form of a communication which is honest and open, responsible and respectful of others." The new iDoms Reader is a way of continuing to respond to the Pope's call for evangelization in the digital age. The iDoms reader provides access to articles and videos aggregated from the various websites of the Dominican Order. Future updates of the application will provide access to a wider variety of content and will introduce extra functionality. Plans for this summer include a much wider offering of video material, full articles in the reader and possibly also a version suitable for Android based mobile phones and tablets. The new app was created jointly by Friars from [St. Joseph Province](#) and the [Province of Ireland](#) and is suitable for both the iPhone/iTouch and the iPad. So, if you have an iPhone/iTouch or iPad, download the new [iDoms Reader app](#).

A Dominican in Pakistan Discusses Christian Persecution

ROME, JUNE 6, 2011 (Zenit.org).- Christians in Pakistan face serious persecution, but the problem is not that they are a tiny minority in an overwhelmingly Muslim country. In fact, says Dominican Father Patrick Peter, Catholics and Muslims form lifelong friendships in the country's Catholic schools. Problems, he said, arise with students from only a particular type of school.

The television program "[Where God Weeps](#)" of the Catholic Radio and Television Network (CRTN) in cooperation with Aid to the Church in Need spoke with Father Peter about his own vocation and the situation of Catholics in Pakistan.

Q: You're from Pakistan, but your name is Patrick?

Father Peter: I was religiously brought up; my family is very Catholic. My father's name is Peter and he gave me my name because it begins with the letter "P." He thought that it was the best name and also because of the Dominican Fathers.

Q: Why did you become a Dominican?

Father Peter: When I was a child I knew about the Dominican Fathers in the Faisalabad Diocese because my father was working for the Dominicans. My aunt on my father's side was a Dominican sister of St. Catherine of Siena and an uncle on my mother's side was also a Dominican priest. So through these people, I had a desire to be a Dominican. I did not know at that time the difference between a diocesan and a religious priest. In my 8th or 9th grade I just said that I wanted to become a priest. When I was in college I came to understand a bit more of the religious life and then I spoke to my uncle who was a Dominican and he said: "Come, come and join us." So I joined, in Faisalabad, the Dominicans.

Q: Who are the Christians in Pakistan? Are they the poor?

Father Peter: The majority of Christians in Pakistan are the poor. They often receive or exist on a meagre subsistence. It is a big challenge for Christians in Pakistan -- even for the educated. The majority of Christians are often so poor that they cannot afford to pay the bribes to access good jobs, while the Muslims have better chances because they are able to afford it -- and the law gives preferences to a Muslim.

Q: Are Christians persecuted because of their faith?

Father Peter: Yes! In Pakistan we Christians are being persecuted. We are especially having difficulties with this blasphemy law: a law that whoever says something against the prophet Mohammed or whoever dishonours or tears a page from the Quran can be accused and charged under this law.

Q: Have you personally experienced discrimination or persecution?

Father Peter: I've not, but after my ordination when I was young, I witnessed a case. On my first day as a priest, after saying a thanksgiving Mass, I met a group of Christians, about 16 to 17 families, who had been accused of saying something against the prophet. They had all been expelled from their village and their homes had been burned down.

Q: The bishop of Faisalabad has said that Christians play a primary role in the progress of the country. What does he mean by that?

Father Peter: He said this especially to emphasize that the Christians have the same obligations as Muslims. We are all Pakistanis. We all face difficulties. We contribute equally to the progress of Pakistan in the field of education and medicine. In Pakistan the Catholic Church has many educational institutions and accepts everyone. Catholic hospitals also accept everyone. So the Christians, and the Catholics specifically, have a special faith-witness among the Muslims by living our Christian values, both in how we are a witness to our faith through our apostolate of service and in how we live our daily lives.

Q: How do Catholic schools play an important role in Pakistan?

Father Peter: We have two school categories: The English medium schools and the Urdu schools. The majority of Pakistanis who can afford the cost of schooling send their children to the English medium schools. Missionary schools, which include the Catholic schools, fall under this category. The majority of Pakistanis, who are predominantly Muslim, prefer these missionary schools.

Q: How can one explain persecution against Christians when so many Muslims go to Catholic schools?

Father Peter: The problem is not the average Muslim in general. The problems come from students from the Madaris schools (Islamic religious schools and seminaries) run by some mosques. The students who come from our schools have very good relationships among each other and often develop lifelong friendships.

Q: Is there a possibility of dialogue with the Muslim community?

Father Peter: Of course there is and dialogue is ongoing. In my village as a child, we, Christians and Muslims, had a very good relationship. We would chat and develop friendships.

Q: How are you going to help your country?

Father Peter: I'm already involved in formation and one of my roles is to train the priests of tomorrow. I will help ready them so that when they are in the field they will have a good approach toward the people -- to prepare the people, to educate the people.

This interview was conducted by Marie-Pauline Meyer for "Where God Weeps," a weekly television and radio show produced by Catholic Radio and Television Network in conjunction with the international Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need.

Dominican Calendar

Jun-18 Bl. Hosanna of Mantua (1449-1505) Italian, celebrated mystic, author, adviser to lawmakers, Lay Dominican.

Jun-20 Bl. Margaret Ebner (1291-1351) German, nun, well-known mystic of the "Golden Age" of German mysticism, friend of Tauler.

Jun-23 Bl. Innocent V (1224-1276) AKA "Peter of Tarentaise", French, pope (1276, first Dominican pope), scholar, administrator, Archbishop of Lyons.

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