



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;

19th 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

The seven last words of Christ on the Cross promise us forgiveness for the violence that we have committed, Paradise when all seems lost, communion when it has been broken. They embrace us in our deepest desolation, show us our God begging for a gift from us; they invite us to open ourselves to the perfection of love, and promise us final rest. Perhaps September 11th invites us to hear those words with the ears of all those whom we exclude and crush, whether they share our faith or another or none at all. For Christ on the cross is not someone whom we own, but all of humanity crucified.

A month before his assassination, the Dominican Bishop of Oran, Pierre Claverie said: “The Church fulfils her vocation when she is present on the fractures that crucify humanity in its flesh and unity. Jesus died spread out between heaven and earth, his arms stretched out to gather in the children of God scatted by the sin which separates them, isolates them, and sets them up against each other and against God himself. He placed himself on the lines of fracture, born of sin.... it is in this place that one can glimpse the light of the Resurrection.

Timothy Radcliffe OP, Seven Last Words

*May we, and those we love be en-lightened this Easter
with the gifts of the Risen Lord that bring joy and hope
so that our lives might continue to be
the words that tell the story of the God of grace in our time.*

We continue to remember in prayer our Dominican brothers and sisters in countries affected by natural disasters and political strife. This week we think especially of those members of our Dominican Family in the United States whose lives have been affected by the recent string of incredibly destructive tornados.

Feast of St Catherine of Siena – 29th April

This feast for the whole Dominican Family occurs within the Octave of Easter, therefore it will not be celebrated liturgically this year in most churches. However, we appreciate the yearly reminder of this great Dominican woman.

In her book Speaking With Authority, Paulist Press, P.138, Mary Catherine Hilbert writes: “Perhaps it is precisely here – in her fragility and brokenness – that we can recover a connection between the authority of Catherine’s speech and the authority of solidarity in suffering. Catherine of Siena was a woman ‘acquainted with grief’ from the pain of her own body to the pain of the body of Christ and the body politic. Her questions and her assumptions may not always be ours, but the words she spoke, believed and lived came from

sharing the struggles and pain of the human condition. Her wisdom developed from her experience of chronic illness; from the daily life struggles of families – including her own; from nursing plague victims and feeding the poor; from counseling political prisoners and keeping vigil with them to the end. Her wisdom deepened in searching for a word of encouragement for those who turned to her for advice; in political struggles for peace and reconciliation even when they appeared fruitless; in her bouts of loneliness in the absence of friends; in praying and working for the church to become more fully the body of Christ. She learned from experience that the contemplative wisdom she wanted to seek in the seclusion of her room was to be found in turning to the neighbour in need. In embracing what God holds dear in creation and the incarnation, Catherine discovered the one whose name is Mercy, the God who loves us ‘unspeakably much’.”

A New Monastery

Many of you will remember Sr Veronica Rosier OP (EA). Veronica is now a member of this new Canadian Community of Nuns, and they are delighted to be in the process of building a new monastery:

“On March 28, in a setting of awesome natural beauty, on a high plateau above the Squamish River Valley, Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, and friends of Queen of Peace Monastery community gathered to break ground for a new monastery in the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

The liturgy for Blessing of the Land and the Construction Site focused on St Luke’s gospel of “A house with its foundation on a rock.” The site of the new monastery is a rocky plateau that faces the glacial peaks of the stunning Tantalus Ranges, and thus, Archbishop Miller spoke of building the Church upon solid rock. Christ is the cornerstone of this new monastery.

The rite began with a welcome by Sister Claire, prioress of the community. As everyone gathered at the edge of the waters of the flowing Pilchuck Creek, she reflected on the experience of deep thirst that all have for living water, Christ himself, and the Dominican nuns’ hopes that this monastery will become a true oasis for those who thirst, for all who long for something that will satisfy their deepest desires and who wish to spend time in the silence and prayer of praise of this monastery.”

For more information about Queen of Peace Monastery, visit www.dominicannunsbc.ca.

Easter Blessings to you all!

Next OPFAM will be 3rd May

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