



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”

19th July 2010

Dominican Thought for the Week

“St Dominic is one of the coy saints. When he died in 1221, the Order which he had founded, the Order of Preachers, commonly known as the Dominicans, buried him, sadly and affectionately, and then got on with the job which he had given them. Unlike the Franciscans, they made no attempt to turn their founder into an object of cult. Nor did they immediately start writing up his life to publicize his personal holiness. The earliest life that we have of Dominic is not called ‘A Life of Dominic’, but ‘A Little Book about the Beginnings of the Order of Preachers.’

In his lifetime, Dominic had wished to be treated simply as ‘one of the brethren’, and his dying wish was that he should be buried beneath the feet of his brothers. It is quite in accordance with his own temperament that he should live on in the Church, not as a striking individual, but in the work of preaching the gospel, for which he instituted his Order. S. Tugwell OP, in Saint Dominic and the Order of Preachers

The Word on the Web

An extensive Internet Hotlist on line at

www.kn.sbc.com/wired/fil/pages/listpreachergr.html

created by Gregory Heille, O.P. Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis, Missouri

Introduction | Bible | Catholic Lectionary--General | Catholic Lectionary--Justice and Spanish | Ecumenical and Revised Common Lectionary--English and Spanish | Publications and Media | Organizations

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No question about it, the world wide web is a boon to preachers--and perhaps especially to busy preachers on a budget. The challenge is finding sites that serve biblical interpretation, congregational and cultural analysis, and interaction with other preachers--without giving over to canned sermons or other (sometimes expensive) quick fixes. The annotated list of preaching websites is by no means exhaustive. Yet, it can help serious preachers to sample several available resources and bookmark a few tried and true study resources on their computer. A few tips for preaching preparation with the use of these resources could be the following: --Print out the lectionary texts, using one of the sites for Catholic or the Revised Common Lectionary below.

--Before consulting printed or online Bible commentaries, take contemplative time to encounter the text in prayer and meditation. An excellent approach to this step, which can be done either individually or communally, is Lectio Divina. A website is offered below to introduce you to this ancient contemplative practice of meditating on the Word.

--Once you have prayerfully encountered the Word on your own terms, look for web resources that expose you to a range of biblical interpretation of the texts. Resources that offer a social-

scientific study of the world behind the biblical texts, as well as resources exploring the social-cultural world in which we live in front of the texts, can be particularly helpful.

--Let your web study support and expand your contemplative insights and sense of direction. As you prepare to preach, remember you are not giving a Bible lecture or some stranger's sermon or interpretation of the texts--you are letting the text reveal itself in your pastoral dialogue with your people as Good News and Word of God.

--Be humble, and don't be afraid to talk about difficult subjects, and seek feedback from your people so that you can improve as a preacher.

--Remember, too, to keep an eye open for those few printed commentaries or resources that you might want to acquire for your personal library. More and more wonderful resources are being made available in biblical studies. There are also many wonderful books on preaching. Some of the best publishers in preaching are Abingdon, Chalice, Continuum, Eerdmans, Fortress, Liturgical, and Westminster John Knox

Justice for Iraqi Health and Well-Being

U.S. Dominicans who have visited Iraq have seen first hand the struggles of the Iraqi people to maintain their healthcare system. At one time, Iraq's healthcare system was world class. Decades of war, sanctions and more war have devastated Iraq's ability to provide needed services throughout the country. Once well educated physicians and medical staff also ensured that the country was up to date in medical technology.

The decade of sanctions and now the years since the 2003 US-led invasion, not only is there a struggle to deliver needed medical services with depleted or out dated technology, physicians are among the many Iraqis who have fled the country because they have been targeted by various insurgency groups.

Among the Iraqi Dominican Sisters (St Catherine of Siena congregation) studying in the United States, one is working on a master's in social work with emphasis on early childhood and two are preparing for medical school. Their congregation continues to offer medical services through their maternity hospital in Baghdad and hope to build a general hospital in the Nineveh Province. The Presentation Dominican Sisters continue to provide medical services at their general hospital in Baghdad.

The attempt by the sisters and friars to collaborate in offering counseling services for women in abusive home situations was forced to close because of threats due to the nature of this work.

June 18, Adrian, Michigan – A team of Dominican sisters and friars presented a webcast updating the status of the Dominican family in Iraq and its impact on that nation and on the world. Originating from Weber Retreat and Conference Center on the campus of the Adrian Dominican Sisters, the June 2 webcast was presented by the Iraq Coordinating Committee of the North American Dominican Justice Promoters. Sister Durstynne Farnan, OP, a Dominican Sister of Adrian, hosted the program. The evening also featured context by Father Jim Barnett, OP, of the Central Province, USA; "The Pilgrims' Journey: Love, Hope, and Resistance in Iraq," a report by Sister Beth Murphy, OP, a Dominican Sister of Springfield, on her latest visit to Iraq; and a report on the Order's mission in Iraq, via telephone from Rome, by Father Jean Jacques Pérennès, OP, Vicar for the Friars in the Arab World.

To see these webcasts: www.adriandominicans.org/whathappening

[Situation of Christians in Iraq](#) (April 2010)

[The Pilgrims' Journey: Love, Hope, and Resistance in Iraq](#) Impact of the Dominican Family in Iraq (June 2010)

The statement of one Dominican province with regard to Immigration laws

In the Spirit of the Bogota Chapter of the Dominican Order, no. 53, we, the 25 Dominican friars who are delegates of the Southern Dominican Province, U.S.A., meeting in Chapter in San Antonio, Texas (May 2010), inspired by the gospel mandates to welcome, speak and act on behalf of the poor and marginated, join our bishops and the leadership of the American Catholic religious communities, as well as religious leaders of all faiths and call upon our government to reform our immigration laws.

We friars of the Southern Dominican Province, USA, meeting in Chapter, call upon our brothers, located in 11 dioceses, with communities of friars in six Southern States, to:

- Include the plight of immigrants in our preaching

- Expand our ministry to them in liturgical and material ways
- Work collaboratively with others of faith and good will to address local immigration issues
- Contact local and national leaders and ask them to address the needs of immigrants and our desire for national security with just and compassionate legislation
- Write letters to the editors of local newspapers informing them of the Church's social teachings regarding immigration and immigration reform
- Urge the Federal Government to close the dozens of scandalous secret Immigration Jails scattered across the US—where immigrants are held without any due legal process, sometimes for years

Looking for good quality films on peace and justice issues?

Check the lengthy catalogue ... www.roninfilms.com.au

Dominican Calendar

Jul-22 St. Mary Magdalen (1st cent.) [M] Jewish, "Apostle to the Apostles" because to them she proclaimed the resurrection of Christ, mirroring the mission of all Dominicans; therefore secondary co-patroness of the Order with St. Catherine of Alexandria (Nov. 24). *This day is sometimes referred to as 'Signadou Day'. Traditionally it marks the day in 1206 on which Dominic received a 'sign of God' which led him to support and sustain the first group of 'Dominican' women at Prouilhe in the south of France.*

Jul-24 Bl. Jane of Orvieto (1264-1306) Italian, worker among the poor, Lay Dominican.

Bl. Augustine of Biella (c.1430-1493) Italian, priest, preacher, reformer, friend of the poor.

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