



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 July 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

Although many might not consider themselves theologians in a professional sense, we are all as Dominicans called to an active theological life. I think of it as similar to our contemplative vocation. Sometimes we too readily think ‘those are the contemplatives’ or ‘the nuns are the contemplative branch’, rather than realizing we are ALL called to a contemplative life. The ‘contemplari’ is a dimension of each of our vocations, women as well as men. We may be contemplative in different ways, but we are all called to ‘tradere’ the ‘contemplata’ and if there is no ‘contemplarii’, then what is it we ‘tradere’?

Donald Goergan in Building Bridges, Dominicans doing theology together.

Congratulations

Last week at St. James' Priory in Sydney Fr John Neill was elected Prior and has accepted his election. Congratulations and best wishes to John in his new office.

Clemency Campaign

Dear friends,

This link below is a campaign to petition the Indonesian president to grant clemency to Andrew Chan and Myran Sukumaran. They seem to have no other options.
<http://mercycampaign.org/> Pan Jordan OP Email: panjordan@yahoo.com

“The Canticle of the Universe” – an Art Exhibition

An internationally acclaimed artwork created by HIV AIDS affected women will be exhibited at Australian Catholic University's (ACU) **Brisbane** Campus, opening 29 August at 6.30pm, and at **Strathfield** Campus, McGlade Gallery, opening 12th August at 6 pm.

The ‘**Canticle of the Universe**’, created by women from the Kopanang Community Trust in South Africa, depicts the story of cosmic evolution on 31 embroidered textile panels with the entire work being over 32 metres in length.

The Exhibition will run in BRISBANE from 30th August – 17th September, with free entry, continues from 9am till 5pm on week days. And in SYDNEY from 6 pm Friday 12th -26th August, open each day from 11.00 am-4 pm.

Mission in Oslo

St Catherine's Convent in Oslo was founded in 1928 when four sisters from the congregation Dominicaines de Notre Dame de Grace arrived from Paris to establish a home for young women and

a Catholic presence in this predominantly Lutheran country. The residence for young women not only provided a secure place for young students away from home, but became a natural meeting point for French and Norwegian culture and gave the Sisters a useful insight into and a good contact with Norwegian society.

In a changing world St Catherine's home is still a home for young women students and continues to be an important meeting point for cultures, denominations and religious views. Our community consists of 12 Sisters, one novice and one postulant. While mainly ethnic Norwegian, we also reflect the composition of nationalities in the Catholic Church in Norway today – Filipino, French, Polish and Vietnamese.

The Catholic Church in Norway is a minority church, around 1-2% of the population in Norway are Catholics and only about 10% of these are ethnic Norwegians. Our multicultural origins and languages are therefore vital for carrying out the various tasks in church and society – such as catechism, social work, mission, ecumenism, theology, research and lecturing. We are active in many fields – work among the destitute and in a centre for mistreated women, catechism for French-speaking children, youth activities in the Filipino community, the preparation and presentation of talks and seminars to renew and keep the faith alive in local parishes all over Norway.

One Sister is engaged in important liturgical work in which we have been involved together with the Dominican Friars ever since Vatican II, another spreads the Gospel by painting traditional icons.

We are engaged in journalism, translation work, lecturing and active ecumenism as well as work for the Tribunal. One is a professor at the Lutheran School of Theology and one is a particle physicist and at times has her workplace at Cern!

In fact we are typical Dominicans, joyfully active in church and society, always ready to meet the needs of the Church, always aware of and willing to take on intellectual challenges to face the changing pressures on Christians in the world.

Prayer and study are the very heart and meaning of our lives and service. It is here in our community, in our chapel, in our prayers that our faith is continually renewed and refreshed. Life in prayer gives us the direction and the strength we need in our lives as Dominicans.

Ane-Elisabet Røer OP, born in 1971, joined the Congregation in 1994, responsible for the running of St Catherine's Home and Administrator of the Tribunal in Oslo Catholic Diocese. DSI, June 2011.

Dominican Calendar

Jul-22 St. Mary Magdalen (1st cent.) [M] Jewish, dear friend of our Lord," Apostle to the Apostles" because to them she proclaimed (i.e. preached) the resurrection of Christ, mirroring the mission of all Dominicans; therefore secondary co-patroness of the Order with St. Catherine of Alexandria (Nov. 24).

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!