



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”

20th April 2010

Dominican Thought for the Week

Philip once said: "Lord, show us the Father and it is enough for us."

Do you want the marrow out of which goodness springs?

Do you want the nucleus from which goodness flows?

Do you want the root, the vein, from which goodness exudes?

And all beauty? Then you want the Creator.

And you want your breakthrough.

For remember this:

The shell must be cracked open if what is inside is to come out.

If you want the kernel, you must break the shell.

We must learn to break through things if we are to grasp God in them. Eckhart

Dominican Friar honoured as a Pilgrim to the Holy Land

On Sunday 28th March 2010 at St Christopher's Cathedral in Canberra, Fr Bernard Maxwell O.P. received the Pilgrim Shell (cast in metal and engraved with the scarlet cross of Jerusalem) together with a formal scroll (in Latin) from His Beatitude Fouad Twal, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem. This was to recognise Father's past support of, and involvement with, the Christian Community of the Holy land and his encouragement of the student community of Bethlehem University.

The presenter of this award was the Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge in the presence of Archbishop Giuseppe Lazarotto, the Apostolic Nuncio, Bishop Max Davis, the Military Ordinary and a large gathering of the robed members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (EOHSJ) and the Sovereign Order of Malta. Fr Bernard is a religious member and Knight of EOHSJ and chaplain to the Knights and Dames in Canberra. Both Archbishop Lazarotto and Bishop Davis are also members of EOHSJ. The occasion was the celebration of the annual Passion Sunday Mass.

Fr Bernard is an Assistant Priest at Blackfriars Parish, Watson ACT. He is well known in Canberra for his work with the RCIA and the Contemplative Prayer Movement.

Two study periods – first with St George's Anglican College and some years later, at the Tantar Ecumenical Centre, have given him a first-hand experience of the plight of the Palestinian Christians and the frightening injustice under which they live. The harsh reality of the sufferings of the Palestinian Christians is a grim reminder of the wounded communities who daily struggle to live their faith and maintain the traditional 'Holy Places'.

The work of the Dominican Friars at the École Biblique in Jerusalem has been a high point of encouragement to the local Christian Church in opening up the riches to be discovered under the ancient stones when guided by the 'Living Stones' . . . the living community.

Congratulations Bernard on this rare privilege

Dominican Sisters of Cabra Ireland

*Many of our readers will know the Sisters of this congregation
We wish their new leadership team every blessing.*

Congregation Prioress: Sister Helen Mary Harmey
Congregation Council: Sisters Siobhan Ni Mhaoilmhichil, Edel Murphy, Brighde Vallely

Nuclear Disarmament Convenor Sr Barbara Hansen, OP (Grand Rapids)

Events, rally, march to be held in New York April 30–May 2

Plan to march with the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, numerous Hibakusha (survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings) and thousands of peace and disarmament activists from around the world in New York City on Sunday, May 2.

Events and workshops for the For a Nuclear Free, Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World begin Friday, April 30 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Riverside Church (490 Riverside Drive, New York NY 10027; Phone 212-870-6700). They continue Saturday, May 1 all day and into the evening. Sunday, May 2 is the International Day of Action. In NYC it will consist of gathering in Times Square and marching to the Dag Hammerskjold Plaza, where there will be a rally and a peace festival. All the petitions collected around the world, including those to President Obama, calling for a nuclear-free world will be delivered to the leaders of the United Nations Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, which begins on May 3.

Join with 800 other anti-nuclear weapons activists sponsored by a coalition of peace groups including Pax Christi USA, Partnership for Global Justice, Peace Action and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Two of the speakers will be Ban Ki Moon, UN Secretary General, and Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima. Mikhail Gorbachev is tentatively scheduled. The website, www.peaceandjusticenow.org, gives event and registration details.

If you can't get to NYC, plan something in your own area with other peace groups. We can make this the largest rally since those for civil rights. Pray for the success of all these efforts! Also, see below for more ways to take action.

How To Get Involved

There are a number of nuclear disarmament activities and conferences being convened during the next several months that we need to wrap in our prayers and sacrifices as well as our advocacy efforts.

- Continued letters and emails to our Senators and in Letters to the Editor encouraging the ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. For more information go to www.reachingcriticalwill.org
- Sign the petition to President Obama urging the complete abolition of nuclear arms. It can be found on many sites including www.paxchristiusa.org; www.unitedforpeace.org This petition will be presented to the President and included in the petitions from across the world to be presented at the May 3-28 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York City.
- Plan to participate locally or in New York City April 30–May 2 in the events leading up to the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. See any of these web sites for information: www.peaceandjusticenow.org; www.unitedforpeace.org; www.wagingpeace.org
- Visit the [Disarmament](#) page on Dominican Life | USA to study the Continuum of Action suggested by the North American Dominican Justice Promoters. Simple things like a sign on your computer or bed stand reminding you to pray for nuclear disarmament, or writing letters to the Editor all the way to participating in demonstrations and acts of civil resistance are suggested there.
- For a display of how the proposed 2011 budget will be spent, [click here](#). For some easy ways you can email your legislators to suggest the priorities be reversed, [click here](#).
- Be aware and pray about the July 4, 2010 weekend gathering in Oak Ridge, Tenn., celebrating three decades of the Nuclear Resister and Nukewatch at the Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Complex. It will be a national gathering, culminating with nonviolent anti-nuclear direct action, July 3-5, 2010, to declare independence from nuclear weapons, nuclear power, and radioactive waste. www.nukewatch.com
- Never lose heart that our seemingly small simple actions are significant. "Revolutionary change does not come as one cataclysmic moment... but as an endless

succession of surprises, moving zigzag toward a more decent society. We don't have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate in the process of change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world." — Prominent American Historian Howard Zinn, who passed away on Jan. 27 at the age of 87.

Earth Day 2010

Awakening the Dreamer: Changing the Dream Symposium scheduled for April 24

SINSINAWA, WI—To celebrate Earth Day, a symposium focusing on global issues such as climate change, poverty and economic crisis will take place at Sinsinawa Mound from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 24.

The workshop uses inspiring video, up-to-the-minute facts and figures, and dynamic group interaction. Participants will hear from some of the world's leading experts on topics as diverse as the current state of the Earth's biodiversity and the reality of the socio-economic disparity throughout the world.

Facilitators for this symposium are Sisters Colleen Settles, OP, and June Wilkerson, OP. They attended their first symposium after witnessing the excitement of another participant, a colleague of Sister Colleen's. Sister Colleen said, "I came out knowing that this was part of my future ministry as a Dominican sister, as part of my preaching and teaching to participate in building a socially just world." The two were trained to be presenters and have led the symposium in Los Angeles, Minneapolis and Chicago. They will lead the event at Sinsinawa Mound in April, and later in Spokane and Madison.

Sister Colleen sees her role as a symposium facilitator as her "volunteerism for the world." Reflecting on the future health of our planet and its people, she said, "This is one of the most important issues that we as a world community are facing, and that is greatly impacted by the way we see the world and how we connect with our own spirituality—this symposium brings that front and center. It helps us to examine our unexamined consumption. Every person has a role to play in the future of a sustainable world. We cannot continue in the dream we are living now."

The Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium is an initiative of The Pachamama Alliance, a San Francisco-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve the Earth's tropical rainforests by empowering the indigenous peoples, who are its natural custodians, and to contribute to the creation of a new global vision of equity and sustainability for all.

The vision of the initiative is to generate widespread awakening at the grassroots level that leads to a transformation of our worldview, such that humanity becomes committed to restoring and protecting the environment and moves towards social justice and spiritual fulfillment.

E Conference on Mary

Did you happen to share in the Lenten Reflection?

Mary - First Disciple eConference - Tuesday 18 May

Fr Frank Maloney SDB, the key presenter, will explore Mary as disciple, woman, and mother. Join us as we reflect on the image of Mary as presented in art through the ages. Listen to other share their personal relationship with Mary both in prayer and in daily life.

For further information check the Broken Bay Institute Website.

I Phone and the Divine Office

There are a number of resources for the iPhone and web that can help with understanding and celebrating the Divine Office: iBbreviary (free), Universalis (pay for), DivineOffice.org (free and pay for versions)

I have been using DivineOffice.org for several months now and having a recording to pray along with encourages me to pray the office more and gives me a sense of praying the office with the whole Church.

The team who produce the recordings for the app take their ministry of providing this service to the Church very seriously. They use the US version of the breviary whose translation can

seem a bit strange to our Aussie ears. However, the music and prayerful reading of the psalms that they make available makes this a minor issue for me.

Martin Hennessy-Smith Melbourne

Dominican Calendar this week

Apr-20 St. Agnes of Montepulciano (1268-1317) [M] Italian, virgin, nun, ascetic, mystic, administrator, admired by St. Catherine of Siena (April 29), canonized 1726.

Apr-27 Bl. Hosanna of Kotor (+1565) Montenegrin, virgin, convert from Greek Orthodoxy, born Catherine but in admiration of Bl. Hosanna of Mantua (June 18; d. 1505) took the name of Hosanna, ascetic, enclosed anchoress, followed the rule of the Dominican Laity.

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