



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”

23rd February 2010

Dominican Thought for the Week

In the birth of the Order, Dominic was the midwife rather than the progenitor. There was something waiting to come to birth in the church as a whole, and Dominic was the providential agent who so splendidly and so tactfully presided over its emergence into the world and its initial formation. If the Order is indelibly stamped with the imprint of Dominic's personality, this is not because he imposed or sought to impose his own ideas and temperament on it, but because he imparted to it his own sense of the dynamism of God's providence and his immense confidence in God and in the helpers and companions God gave him.

Simon Tugwell OP, in Dominic by Vladimir Koudelka OP

The Holy Father visits Santa Sabina on Ash Wednesday

See this event on You Tube: http://www.op-stjoseph.org/blog/tags/Santa_Sabina

Br Timothy's Ordination

For lovely photographs see - http://gallery.op.org.au/v/Timothy_Diaconate/

Waihopai Three

An email Bulletin from the Ploughshares group regarding the forthcoming trial of the Waihopai Three, including our own brother, Peter Murnane. Whatever our personal views on their action, we can pray for Peter and his co-accused and a just and merciful outcome to the trial. The email provides some interesting information on their support from Christian and other pacifist groups.

Update: Support for the Waihopai Ploughshares trial

Kia ora,

The trial of the Waihopai Ploughshares team is set to begin in Wellington on 8 March 2010, and the Wellington Ploughshares Support Group now has a range of activities planned to take place before and during the trial. This message is to provide information about the planned activities, as well as to invite you and your organisation to become involved - wherever you are based, you do not need to be in Wellington to support Waihopai Ploughshares before and during the trial.

Details are available online at <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/plsupport.htm> and <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/plshares.htm> and information about the Waihopai spy base is at <http://www.converge.org.nz/abc/waihopai.html> if you would like a preview.

Dominican Friars in Africa

Dominicans serve the Church in many parts of the continent of Africa and are divided into eight entities: Angola, Southern Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda/Burundi, Equatorial Africa, Nigeria and West Africa. There are almost 450 Dominican friars in Africa and the number is steadily increasing.

Our context in Africa is stark. The reality in many countries is a lack in basic things like water, food, health (particularly in the area of HIV/AIDS), drought, housing, electricity, technology and know-how and education. While Africa lacks many things which the first world tends to take for granted, practically all over the continent one comes across the curse of corruption and bribery. Responsible and accountable use of funds is often lacking. Sometimes funding agencies help projects with necessary funding, only to find that the funds were not responsibly administered or reported on. This is another form of injustice. Poverty, underdevelopment and injustice feed each other.

Our friars work in a variety of apostolates – teaching, writing, HIV/AIDS, counselling, radio and communication, justice and peace, chaplaincy work, formation and parish work. We are involved in many projects which are funded by various agencies. And we are involved in the formation of young friars. What Africa needs most of all is hope and this colours our preaching and apostolates. The representatives of the Dominicans working in Africa meet almost every year to review their ministry and apostolate. Being aware of the dire situation within which we work, we felt that we should make an essential contribution to ourselves and to the people amongst whom we work. We asked ourselves what we could do to uplift our situation so that we did not get sucked into the morass that is plaguing our continent.

Of all the areas of concern, we felt that in 2010 we wanted to show our responsibility in the area of formation in financial administration and self reliance. Two major workshops were planned – one aimed at helping our formators to help those in their care; and another to help our bursars in the eight entities working in Africa. Many of these friars are excellent Dominicans trained in theology and the various disciplines of the Church but few are trained in the art of financial administration....

Our continent is heavily dependent on assistance from outside and this workshop went a long way towards helping us in our quest for self reliance by assisting us in the ways of responsible, transparent and accountable administration of what has been entrusted to us.

Fr Emil Blaser OP – extract from IDI January 2010.

Coming Event

From Bishop Anthony Fisher OP

*Please convey to all OPFAM readers my invitation to the Dominican family
to attend my installation as Bishop of Parramatta
at 7:30 pm on March 4th at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta
and afterwards to supper across the road at the Mercy convent.*

Dominican Calendar this week

Feb-24 Bl. Constantius of Fabriano (1410-1481) Italian, priest, ascetic, peacemaker.

Dominican Heritage Tour 3rd- 28th May 2010 – Places still available

3 and a half weeks pursuing our Dominican heritage in Rome, Florence, Siena, Bologna, Toulouse, Fanjeaux, Prouilhe, Caleruega, Osma, Brussels, Cologne, Galway, Dublin. Accompanied by Fr Kevin Toomey OP and Sr Elizabeth Hellwig OP. Time to make a decision has arrived -archives5@bigpond.com.au.

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