



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"

27th April 2010

Next OPFAM will be around 15th June

Dominican Thought for the Week

Caterina di Jacopo di Benincasa was born in 1347 of parents neither wealthy or poor, the twenty-fourth of twenty-five children in that wool-dyeing household, and one might have expected her life to take the same sort of obscure, unnoted path as did that of her sisters and brothers. She had no formal schooling and lived a mere thirty-three years, yet she now bears the titles of saint and doctor of the Roman Catholic Church and patroness of Italy... her three hundred and eighty-two letters represent the activity of approximately her final ten years.

Suzanne Noffke OP, The Letters of St Catherine of Siena, Vol 1., P.1

Radio Preaching

Radio Preaching Forum was launched on the 23 April 2009. The purpose of the Radio Preaching Forum is to harness the power of new internet technologies to improve our preaching on the radio – to allow Dominicans, who work in radio ministries to exchange ideas, build links, share programs, and reflect theologically together. Any interested person may join the forum.

There are now about 57 members who have joined the forum. This network began by email initially and has taken the shape of a forum. It is encouraging to see so many members of the Dominican laity, Sisters, Nuns and Friars who have already joined the forum.

This group has a very special Dominican focus of sharing, networking and reflecting together. There have been some in depth good discussions and reflections on the challenges and some problems in the radio ministry. We also have had some lively ongoing debates on preaching the Word of God and politics. Can we be faithful to the Word of God without becoming political? Importance of mass media in the Order makes me wonder if we should have another forum for those in electronic media, etc.? Some members have also been sharing their success stories and some good programs they have had on radio. It is also a pleasure to be in touch with the global Dominican Family, to learn about other cultures and ways of understanding and living our Dominican Charism.

The RPF had to cross some hitches of technology. We began the forum on a special webpage but now have the forum on Yahoo groups which is much easier to access and more user friendly. We have resolved the technical issues we had initially with a simple solution.

If you desire or are interested in knowing more about the radio forum group just go to the group home page: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/radioforum> We will be happy to welcome you to the forum. To keep the forum and conversation moving, be sure to invite your friends, and others who share your passion for preaching.

Happy First Anniversary! Congratulations and Kudos to all the members of RPF.

Fr Prakesh Lolahe OP

SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOMINICAN SISTERS INTERNATIONAL (DSI) Rome, May 2010

“This great Saint (Saint Dominic) reminds us that a missionary fire must always burn in the heart of the Church which incessantly encourages to carry the first announcement of the Gospel and, wherever necessary, a new evangelization...” (Benedict XVI, Papal Hearing, February 3rd, 2010)

There will be more than 100 General Prioresses from the Congregations of Dominican Sisters of Apostolic Life, members of the DSI movement, who will meet in Rome from May 14th to the 19th, to **SHAPE THEIR OWN FUTURE WITH REALISM, DARING AND HOPE**, and identify courses of action for the upcoming three-year period (2010-2013).

The 154 Congregations total approximately 25,500 Dominican sisters who operate in 111 countries throughout the world, either alone or in collaboration with other branches of the Dominican family, friars, nuns and laity.

The DSI movement was born in 1995 to promote the collaboration among Dominican Sisters as preaching women in the Church. This year DSI celebrates 15 years since its existence during this Assembly.

The concerns of Religious Life and its future, which are common to many Congregations and religious orders, have encouraged DSI to dedicate its sixth General Assembly to study the signs of the times together with realism and to prepare for the future with daring and hope. We were inspired by questions such as:

Considering the globalized reality of our world, what are the most significant challenges that the feminine Dominican religious life must face?

How must we prophetically react to the consequences brought by the decrease in religious vocations?

How do we envision religious life in 10 years?

The debate that will take place among the participants will be the basis to create a booklet that we will ensure to share both inside and outside the Dominican family: we are certain that the debate can also enrich other religious people who are dealing with the same issues.

The Master of the Order, Fr. Carlos A. Azpiroz Costa, OP, will also be present during one of the six days. His talk will be introduced by the DSI International Coordinator, Sr. Maria Fabiola Velasquez Maya, OP.

Dominican Laity gathering in New Zealand

Our prayers and good wishes are with the very special national gathering of Dominican family in Wellington this weekend. We look forward to hearing all about it.

Meister Eckhart rehabilitated

A nice present for his 750th birthday! Friday, April 16, 2010 –

Only today - in an Article published by the eminent German Eckhart Scholar and Editor, Professor Georg Steer, archival material from the British Eckhart Society emerged which shows that in 1992 Pope Benedict XVI. (the then Prefect of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith) had accepted the petition of the Dominican General Chapter to rehabilitate the famous German theologian and philosopher, Meister Eckhart (ca. 1260-1329).

Paradoxically - Meister Eckhart's rehabilitation after 750 years culminates in the verdict that he never needed a rehabilitation. Such is the summary of the response which the then Master of the Dominicans, Timothy Radcliffe, received from the Vatican in 1992, and which he had summarised in a letter to Peter Talbot Wilcox, the then President of the British Eckhart Society, dated 15 August 1992:

'We tried to have the censure lifted on Eckhart', writes Timothy Radcliffe, 'and were told that there was really no need since he had never been condemned by name, just some propositions which he was supposed to have held, and so we are perfectly free to say that he is a good and orthodox theologian.'

What reads like a harmless statement is, however, the concise answer to the outcome of a very detailed report which a commission of theologians had worked out on behalf of the General Chapter of the Dominicans of 1980 and which together with a petition was passed on

in a letter by the then Master of the Dominicans to Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger on 30 March, 1992.

The letter to Cardinal Ratzinger spelled out that 'the Order of Saint Dominic has obviously a very direct interest in Meister Eckhart's life, works and reputation. This is why the General Chapter of 1980 welcomed one petition concerning the great theologian and mystic. It originated in Great Britain from a group of Dominican laity and friends of the Order in that country, headed by the late Ms. Ursula Fleming, who founded the association "Friends of Meister Eckhart" (The Eckhart Society).

The commission of experts comprised the following members and was created in 1983 by Master Fr. Vincent de Couesnongle: Alois M. Haas, Professor of German Medieval Literature at the University of Zurich; Ruedi Imbach, Professor of Medieval Philosophy at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland; Loris Sturlese, Professor of the Scuola Normale di Pisa; Fr. fidouard Weber, OP, of the Centre National de Recherches Scientifiques; Fr. Willehad Eckert, OP, who teaches History at the University of Cologne and Fr. Heinrich Stirnimann, OP, Emeritus Professor of the Faculty of Theology in Fribourg in Switzerland and Chairman of the Commission.

After almost ten years of scholarly research, the Commission had published its conclusions in "Eckardus Theutonicus, homo doctus et sanctus". In addition, the Commission requested Prof. Winfried Trusen, of Wurzburg, to make a study on the precise nature of the process against Meister Eckhart, which led to his "Der Prozess gegen Meister Eckhart, Vorgeschichte, Verlauf, Folgen", Paderborn 1988.

Both documents were included in the letter to Cardinal Ratzinger.

The Dominican Master pointed out in his letter that according to Professor Trusen's opinion 'Eckhart does not need a "rehabilitation" in the canonical sense of the word, since his person, his doctrine, his apostolate or his spirituality were not really condemned. Only 28 propositions were censured, but they were taken out of their context and impossible to verify, since there were no manuscripts in Avignon.'

He added Fr. Weber's finding that 'Eckhart's doctrine is perfectly coherent with the orthodox tradition of great theologians like the Cappadocians, Augustine, Thomas and others' and that of T. Suarez-Nani 'that each of the censured propositions, when studied attentively, may be interpreted in a perfectly orthodox way.'

Finally he addressed Cardinal Ratzinger's personal 'interest in mystic doctrine, particularly that of Eckhart himself', 'considering also the help and light that so many people, not alone christians, find in his writings and especially in his Sermons', and then formally asked the Cardinal 'to take into consideration the request of our General Chapter: whether it would be possible to lift any condemnation.'

Timothy Ratcliffe's answer which was kept in the archive of the British Eckhart Society, re-emerged a few days ago when the German Eckehart Gesellschaft invited the British Eckhart Society to their annual congress in Munich and in their opening address, the representative of the Society quoted the relevant documents which clearly prove that the Vatican, if not Cardinal Ratzinger himself, responded positively to the Dominicans position and supported all three main suggestions: Indeed, Meister Eckhart does not need any rehabilitation, he is in line with Catholic orthodoxy, and he is a theologian who is worth recommending!

Professor Georg Steer, the eminent German Eckhart scholar and editor, has today published the content of these documents in the Theologische Literaturzeitung. Professor Markus Vinzent University of Birmingham (from 09/10 King's College London)

source: http://www.academici.com/blog/7263/meister_eckhart_rehabilitated_by_the_pope.html

E Conference on Mary, Mother of God

RE: DOUBLE DVD PACK OF SAINT PAUL AND ST LUKE NATIONAL E-CONFERENCES

Many of you have requested DVD copies of our St Paul and St Luke eConferences. I am delighted to advise this great resource is now available in an attractive double DVD pack for \$20, plus postage and handling. Discounts are available for purchases of 11 or more.

The Mary eConference

The National eConference Mary-First Disciple is fast approaching on Tuesday May 18. Fr Francis Moloney SDB will engage you as he shares his insights into Mary as disciple, woman and mother.

The Mary eConference can be accessed at <http://mary.vividas.com> where you can view the Welcome Message by Bishop Ad Abikaram.

By registering for the Mary-First Disciple eConference you automatically enter the draw for a chance to win a pilgrimage for two to Rome!

To register go to http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/contact/form_mary.asp

Thank you & God Bless, Virginia Ryan

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.

Dominican Pilgrimage

The group leaves for Caleruega on 3rd May. Pilgrims come from The Solomon Islands, New Zealand, Indianapolis USA, WA, SA, VIC, QLD and NSW. We look forward to meeting each other! We ask you to keep us in mind as we wrestle with volcanoes, civil strife in Bangkok, cultural strife in Belgium and other issues that could lead to this tour being more than 'interesting'! We are in God – and St Dominic's – hands!

We also have the gift of many wonderful Dominican men and women leading us as we arrive in each place – many of you will be familiar with Fr Jesus Martin in Caleruega, Sr Barbara Beaumont in Fanjeaux, Fr Tarcissio in Bologna, Sr Maura Duggan in Ireland, Fr Alain of the Dominican International Community in Brussels, to name just a few... We will certainly be remembering all our readers in the Dominican 'holy places'.

Dominican Calendar

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.

Apr-28 St. Louis de Montfort (1673-1700) French, priest member of the Dominican Third Order, brother of a Dominican priest, preacher of parish missions, author, founder of religious congregation of men and another of women, all to spread devotion to Mary and the Rosary as inspired by St. Dominic

Apr-29 **ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA (1347-1380) [F] Italian, virgin, renowned mystic, stigmatist, diplomat, peacemaker, author of *The Dialogue*, second woman Doctor of the Church, Church appointed patroness of the Dominican Laity, co-patroness with St. Francis of Italy, patroness of Rome, co-patroness of the European Union, nurses, fire prevention, canonized 1461. PATRON of Federation of Dominican Sisters of Australia.**

Apr-30 St. Pius V (1504-1572) [M] Italian, inquisitor, pope (1566-1572, 3rd Dominican pope), reformer, diplomat, great promoter of the rosary, canonized 1712.

May

May-4 The Sufferings of Jesus Christ, Our Lord [C] The texts are from the Dominican Rite, formerly called "The Crown of Thorns," this day recalls the gift of a thorn from Christ's crown made to the Order by St. Louis IX, King of France (Aug. 25), in 1239.

Bl. Amelia Bicchieri (1238-1314) Italian, virgin, nun, mystic.

May-5 St. Vincent Ferrer (1350-1419) [M] Spanish, priest, celebrated itinerant preacher and ascetic, Church appointed patron of builders, canonized 1455.

May-7 Bl. Albert of Bergamo (1214-1279) Italian, husband and father, farmer, traveler on pilgrimages, lover of poverty, miracle worker, Lay Dominican.

May-8 The Patronage of the B.V.M. over the Order Mary is the principal patroness, St. Dominic the principal patron, while Mary Magdalene (July 22) and Catherine of Alexandria (Nov. 24) are secondary co-patrons.

May-10 St. Antoninus of Florence (1389-1459) [M] Italian, Archbishop of Florence, moral theologian, author, reformer, canonized 1523

May-12 Bl. Jane of Portugal (1452-1490) Portuguese, virgin, crown princess and regent of Portugal, nun, penitent for the conversion of sinners and release of Christians captive in Africa, social worker.

May-13 Bl. Imelda Lambertini (1321-1333) Italian, virgin, child nun, contemplative, lover of Blessed Sacrament, Church appointed patroness of first communicants.

May-15 Bl. Giles (1184-1265) Portuguese, priest, backslider & reconvert, mystic, prophet.

Bl. Andrew Abellon (1375-1450) French, priest, ascetic, artist.

May-19 St. Francisco Coll y Guitart (1812-1875) Spanish (Catalan) priest. Because of the anti-clerical laws of 1836, he was forced to live by himself. In imitation of St. Dominic, he dedicated himself to itinerant preaching without remuneration, occasionally accompanied by his friend, St. Anthony Mary Claret (Oct.24). Despite the trying circumstances, he was able to found the Dominican Sisters of the Annunciata. St. Francisco was heroically faithful to Dominican life with the result that when in 1872 the restrictions were lifted, the returning friars found he had maintained the structures to such a degree that their community life could begin immediately. Pope Benedict's Oct. 11, 2009, homily at the canonization:

May-21 Bl. Columba of Rieti (1467-1501) Italian, virgin, inspired by St. Catherine of Siena (April 29) to become a Lay Dominican, became a cloistered sister at the bishop's request, prophetess, peacemaker.

Bl. Hyacinth-Marie Cormier (1832-1916) French, originally a Lay Dominican, became a priest, devoted to Blessed Sacrament and to the restoration of the Order, author, confessor, spiritual director, Provincial of Toulouse, Master of the Order, founder of the Angelicum, he long labored strenuously for Dominican ideals.

May-24 TRANSLATION OF THE BODY OF OUR HOLY FATHER DOMINIC (1233) [S] or [Optional Memorial]

Bl. Jordan, under pressure from Pope Gregory IX, transferred the body of our holy Father Dominic from where he had asked to be buried "at the feet of the brethren", i.e. in the floor of the choir, to a noble shrine in a side chapel.

May-27 Bl. Andrew Franchi (1335-1401) Italian, Bishop of Pistoia, peacemaker, pastor.

May-28 Bl. Mary Bartholomea (1514-1577) Italian, virgin, life-long invalid, mystic, Lay Dominican.

May-29 Bls. William Arnaud, priest; Bernard of Roquefort, priest; Garcia de Aure, cooperator brother (+1242) French, along with two Franciscans, two Benedictines, four secular priests, and a layman, massacred by Albigensian heretics.

May-30 Bl. James Salomonio (1231-1314) AKA "The Venetian" and "Father of the poor", Italian, priest, mystic, wonder-worker, invoked for cancer.

June

Jun-2 Bls. Sadoc & Companions (+1260); Hungarian, priest, preacher, plus entire Community of 49, massacred by Tartars at Sandomir, Poland.

Jun-4 St. Peter of Verona (+1252) [M] AKA "St Peter Martyr", Italian, priest, zealous preacher, inquisitor, martyred by a heretic near Como," Protomartyr of the Order" because canonized, but see May 29, canonized 1253.

Jun-8 Bls. Diana d'Andalo (1200-1236); Cecilia Cesarini (1200-1290); Amata (or Amy) Italian, virgins, nuns, ascetics, friends of St. Dominic and Bl. Jordan (Bl. Amata had been part of this group, but is no where in the current, official Dominican calendar because nothing is known of her other than that she lived with the other two. All three were beatified by Leo XIII in 1891.

Jun-10 Bl. John Dominici (1357-1419) AKA "John Dominic", Italian, Archbishop of Ragusa, cardinal, renowned diplomat, educator.

Jun-12 Bl. Stephen Bandelli (1369-1450) Italian, priest, famous preacher, patron of Saluzzo, town in NW Italy.

Jun-18 Bl. Hosanna of Mantua (1449-1505) Italian, virgin, celebrated mystic, author, adviser to lawmakers, Lay Dominican.

Jun-20 Bl. Margaret Ebner (1291-1351) German, virgin, nun, well-known mystic of the "Golden Age" of German mysticism, friend of Tauler.

Jun-23 Bl. Innocent V (1224-1276) AKA "Peter of Tarentaise", French, pope (1276, first Dominican pope), scholar, administrator, Archbishop of Lyons.

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