



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

27th January 2010

Happy New Year to each one of you!

As you may know the Dominican Order is preparing to celebrate its 800th Year Jubilee in 2016.

This worldwide observance, which began in 2009, offers "Yearly Themes" to help the Family prepare for the jubilee.

The theme for 2010 is "**The Mission of Preaching**".

"How can people preach unless they are sent?" (Rom 10:15):

Jubilee Prayer (www.op.org)

God of Mercy, in your eternal Wisdom, you called your servant Dominic to set off on a journey of faith as itinerant pilgrim and preacher of grace. With your Word of gentle Truth in his heart and on his lips, Dominic invited the first sisters and brothers to join him in a life of contemplative obedience in the service of the holy preaching. As we commemorate this Jubilee, we ask you to breathe the Spirit of the risen Christ once again into our hearts and minds. Re-create us, so that we might faithfully and joyfully proclaim the gospel of peace, through the same Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

Dominicans in Haiti Safe After Earthquake PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI –

January 15, 2010 -- There are a number of Dominicans serving in Haiti, along with many other religious congregations. Reports are that all of the Dominicans are safe, after the devastating earthquake that struck there January 12th. The quake flattened much of the city, knocked out the central communication systems, blocked roads, and rendered Haiti's main seaport unusable.

According to Toni Harris, OP (Sinsinawa) of the International Office of Justice and Peace, "Members of the Dominican Family in Haiti include Friars of the Vicariate of Haiti (Toulouse) and Sisters from six congregations (Monteils – France; Missionnaires Adoratrices – Canada; Présentation – Rome; Délivrante – France; Petites Soeurs - France; Fátima – Puerto Rico). As of 14 January, we understand that all Dominicans survived the earthquake although some were injured. As we enter into 2010 – the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Dominicans to this land (Hispanola) – we encourage prayer and financial support by the world-wide Dominican Family for the people of Haiti.

Donations received will fund both the special 2010 Solidarity Project and the continuing efforts undertaken by Dominicans to rebuild Haiti and address human needs there long after this initial crisis." More details about the Solidarity Project will be made available soon. Some friars from the St. Martin Province had been travelling in the area and are reported safe, but some family members have not survived.

Prayer

God of all creation, as we weep with our family in Haiti, console us.

In this time of crisis, open our eyes to look beyond the disaster to see Christ in our brothers and sisters in Haiti, as Christ sees us.

Be with us as we stand in solidarity with those living and working in Haiti.
Be with us in our mourning and guide our efforts to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless,
comfort the grieving and stand for justice.
With your mercy, sustain us at this time as we continue to work for peace and justice.
Amen.

For our Brothers and Sisters in Haiti Affected by the Earthquake. Lord, hear our prayer.
For the Haitian people, that help comes to them quickly and comfort comes to those who hurt.
Lord, hear our prayer.
For the lost or buried, that they are found and reunited with their loved ones. Lord, hear our
prayers. For the relief workers, that they have the tools they need, the courage and the
strength to respond fully. Lord, hear our prayers.
For the families in Haiti and in the United States who are waiting to hear from loved one, that
good news comes to them. Lord, hear our prayers.
For those whose who have perished, may their souls rest with you, oh Lord, where they will
find eternal love. Amen.

***Dominicans this year are celebrating 500 years in the Americas, as they
commemorate this year the arrival of four brothers in La Espanola – now Haiti
and the Dominican Republic.***

Download an excellent article on this story of social justice that began in 1510.

*“Seeing, Touching and Preaching the Truth: the First Dominicans in the Americas” by Fr Brian
Pierce OP – just type the title into Google!*

Congratulations

VATICAN CITY, 8 JAN 2010 (VIS) - The Holy Father appointed: **Bishop Anthony C. Fisher O.P.**,
auxiliary of Sydney, Australia, as bishop of Parramatta (area 4,289, population 973,341,
Catholics 319,278, priests 150, permanent deacons 6, religious 376), Australia – *as reported on*
www.op.org.

*Our prayers and good wishes are sent to you Bishop Anthony OP, as you begin shepherding
this complex, racially rich and financially highly diverse community that lies at the
demographic heart of Sydney.*

Congratulations too, to **Fr Kevin Toomey OP** who was recently appointed Editor of ‘Tui Motu’,
New Zealand’s greatly respected Catholic paper. www.tuimotu.org

*“Tui Motu is an exciting and challenging journal. We invite readers to question, debate and
reflect on spiritual and social issues in the light of gospel values with the aim of creating a
more just and peaceful society.*

*Tui Motu is a Maori phrase meaning “stitching the islands together...” bringing different races,
faiths and opinions into relationship.’*

*Dominican Sisters and Friars have been closely involved with this important preaching tool
since its inception. We wish Kevin well as he takes on this very Dominican role.*

Kevin joins very successful Dominican editor, Associate Tracey Edstein, editor of another
impressive Catholic paper – “Aurora” in the Newcastle-Maitland Diocese.
This is indeed a significant 21st century ministry!

Short Film – “The Gospel in Action” – user friendly, well worth seeing

This is a well done short film (24 minutes), directed by Eric Salobir, OP, and Dominic DeLay,
OP, from an original idea by Prakash Lohale, OP, and Jean Claude Lavigne, OP. The film is
available for viewing on the website of the Order – www.op.org - or on youtube.com. It’s a
good example of the opportunity we have today to preach through the internet.

Death of a great Dominican Theologian

On 23rd December our brother Edward Schillebeeckx OP died in Nijmegen, the Netherlands,
aged 95 years.

The Dominican friar taught in the Department of Dogmatic and Historical Theology at the Catholic University of Nijmegen, now known as Radboud University Nijmegen, from 1957 until his retirement in 1983.

Advisor to the Dutch bishops at the Second Vatican Council in Rome (1962-1965) and at the Dutch Pastoral Council at Noordwijkerhout (1966-1970), Schillebeeckx played a major role in ecclesiastic and theological renewal in the second half of the twentieth century.

Mary Catherine Hilker, OP, Professor of Theology at Notre Dame University, said, "The death of Edward Schillebeeckx is a great loss for the Dominican Family, the Church, the world, and all who knew and loved him. But now this theologian who wrote so powerfully about "the most human God" and what it means to encounter "the God who is new each moment" shares in that mystery face to face. We give thanks for our brother Edward who told the story of Jesus in a way that inspired so many others to make that story their own and who reminded us all that God's desire is the flourishing of humankind and of all of God's loved creation.

A full biography and list of his writings can be found on the site of 'Edward Schillebeeckx foundation'.

Dominican Calendar this week

- Jan-27 Bl. Marcolinus of Forli (1317-1397) Italian, priest, ascetic.
- Jan-28 ST. THOMAS AQUINAS (1225-1274) [F] Italian, priest, renowned theologian, teacher, author of the "Summa Theologiae", AKA "Angelic Doctor" and "Common Doctor" of the Church, Church appointed patron of students and Catholic schools, canonized 1323.
- Jan-29 Bl. Villana de' Botti (1332-1361) Italian, wife and mother, contemplative, worker among the poor, Lay Dominican.
- Feb-3 Bl. Peter of Ruffia (1320-1365) Italian, priest, Inquisitor General, martyred by heretics. AKA Peter de Ruffi; Peter of Ruffia; Peter Cambiani: Peter Cambiano av Ruffi.
- Bl. Anthony Pavoni (1326-1374) Italian, priest, inquisitor, martyred by heretics.
- Bl. Bartholomew Cerveri (1420-1466) Italian, priest, Master of Theology, inquisitor, martyred by heretics.
- Feb-4 St. Catherine de' Ricci (1522-1590) [M] Italian, virgin, cloistered sister, mystic, stigmatist, canonized 1747.

Dominican Heritage Tour 3rd- 28th May 2010 – BROCHURES 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.
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Please send contributions – short paragraphs – about Dominican Life in your area to archives5@bigpond.com.au – OFTEN!