



OPFAM

Dominican Family Matters

*A Newsletter for the Dominican Family in Australia,
New Zealand, Solomon Islands 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;

29th November 2011

Go and tell my brothers...” (Jn 20:17): Dominican Women and Preaching

Dominican Thought for the Week

As we begin the new Liturgical Year, we begin a new slogan as prescribed by the Order for the celebrations leading up to 2016.

The overarching call is:

“Woe to us if we do not preach the Gospel”.

For the coming year this theme is added:

“Go and tell my brothers...” (Jn 20:17): Dominican Women and Preaching

This presents us all with many challenges – and of course we are not speaking just of preaching within celebration of the Eucharist – how else can (and are already) Dominican women be involved in the ministry of preaching?? What can all members of the Order of Preachers do to help facilitate the exercise of this basic dimension of our charism?

Jubilee Prayer

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.

Death of a Dominican Friar in the Solomon Islands

The death was reported last week of Fr John Tiriko OP, who died in Honiara after a long illness. We hope to include more about Fr John in the next OPFAM.

We offer our condolences to all the Dominican Fathers and Sisters of the Vicariate.

500th Anniversary of the sermon of Montesinos on behalf of the community

Sr Cecily Sheehy OP (NZ) has written a hymn for the occasion on our behalf. We would like to share it with the whole Dominican Family. Thank you Cecily!

Hymn in honour of Fray Anton Montesino (*Melody: 'All Creatures of our God and King'*)

In hist'ry's page a story heard
Of a community who dared
To speak out for – all the 'small ones'.
Preaching that sermon bold and free,
Signed by the whole community,
Father Anton, fearless preacher,
We do honour, alleluia, alleluia!

O, what a great prophetic stand
Taken by preachers in this land,
Let us praise them, alleluia!
Strong in Dominican belief
That to the poor we bring relief
From despair to liberation,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Speaking the truth they have not lied,
And surely they were 'crucified',
Like the Christ, our Lord and Saviour.
So, in a strong collective way
We, too will speak our truth and say,
Peace and justice for the earth, and
For all people, alleluia, alleluia!

Words and music of another Hymn are also attached. Verses 1 and 2 were written by John Bell, and verses 3 and 4 by Helen Ryan OP (EA). Thank you Helen.

Lay Dominican Retreat 19th November

The Lay Dominicans of St Dominic and Bld PG Frassati Chapters including Bld Bartolo Longo Group came together for their annual retreat on a wild wet windy Saturday. The setting for the retreat was a winner. The Spirituality Centre of the Sisters of the Holy Rosary of Malta, at Keilor Downs, was beautiful, clean and spacious. It seemed to have all the right rooms for a retreat and the surrounding gardens were so restful and attractively set out.

Brother Thomas Azzi OP was impressively well organised, his use of the computer was amazing, demonstrating that a great deal of preparation had been done. His presentations were lucid, interesting and thorough. His theme was "Veritas" as seen from a Dominican perspective, and he approached it from a number of angles:

He looked at how it is perceived from a purely physical, human perspective, then how it is tackled from a philosophical angle, relying heavily on Thomas Aquinas and, through him, Aristotle. Questions and discussion were to the point and showed that those present were fully engaged with the material in hand.

We had an hour of prayer, including silent meditation and a liturgical Rosary, and we finished the day with discussion groups around a series of questions that Brother Tomas had devised which required us to look more closely at what he had presented.

The 15 participants seemed to have been higher than expected, as quite a few extra chairs had to be found. The food was plentiful and enjoyable and there was great harmony among those present.

Many thanks to Br. Thomas for his presentation and to Sr Doris and the community at Rosary Home for their usual wonderful hospitality. *Ms Gillian Annwn OP*

Please pray for the Laity at Bld Bartolo Longo six are preparing for solemn profession on St Catherine's day and one for first profession.

Euthanasia Debate

Anthony Fisher OP, the Bishop of Parramatta, was interviewed by Quentin Dempster about the Catholic Church's position on voluntary euthanasia for last week's edition of *The 7.30 Report* in NSW. This interesting and important interview is available on Youtube, through the ABC TV site, or through Google.

Exclusive Christmas cards

Designed by students of St Lucy's School with all proceeds to assist St Lucy's. 12 cards (3 x each design for Pack 3) with envelopes. \$15.00 (inc. GST)

The Dominican primary school for children with disabilities, St Lucy's School in Wahroonga, is selling a selection of beautiful Christmas cards to raise money for its educational programs. Two of the available designs feature colourful biblical artwork by the children and inspiring quotes. They are available through the "news" section of the school's website www.stlucys.nsw.edu.au, or by calling Terry at the front desk on 94871277.

Dominican Calendar

Dec-1 Bl. John of Vercelli (+1283) Italian, priest, 6th Master of the Order, preacher, earnestly promoted devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus in consequence of the commission to do so given him and the Order by Pope Gregory X in implementation of the Second Ecumenical Council of Lyons (1274), on the way to which St. Thomas expired, Church appointed patron of the Confraternity of the Holy Name.

Dec-8 THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY [S]. S

Please send contributions – short paragraphs – about Dominican Life in your area to archives@opeast.org.au – OFTEN!