



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;

2nd August 2011

**“We hear them speaking in our own tongues of the marvellous acts of God” (Acts 2:11):
Preaching and Culture / Community Preaching**

*Today we remember Blessed Jane of Aza,
and the mothers of all Dominicans living and deceased.*

Dominican Thought For the Week

Joyful friar, tolerant master, grace-filled preacher, Gospel man of prayer,
Pray that your sons and daughters will be faithful to their heritage
of common life, common prayer, study and service,
so that other men and women will join with them
to praise, to bless and to preach that Jesus Christ is Lord. Amen

*Blessings to all who claim an affiliation
with the great Dominican Family around the world,
as we re-member again
around our Father Dominic
on his feast.
Since 1234*

*The Church has assured us of Dominic’s holiness
and the power his Order’s charism holds
to bring forth the reign of God.*

News from Oslo

"Dear Sister Lucia [DSI], Thank you for your concern. Thanks to God nothing happened to our community and all the sisters are fine. But, we are all in shock and great pain. It is unbelievable and hard to understand. Even so, even though the sorrow is great, we are met by great love. Instead of hate, people march out in the streets with flowers. There are flowers everywhere! It is great to be together like that. Crying together, singing together, lighting candles together and together fill up a destroyed city with flowers! 200 000 people were out in the streets of Oslo yesterday evening, and people went out in every city and place.

All together there were about half a million people out with flowers all over the country. Everyone showed their sorrow, but also their hope and desires with flowers. And if someone had not managed to buy a flower as they were already sold out, the others gave them one of theirs. And everyone said with these flowers; this is the Norway we want; a country filled up with love and trust and freedom from fair. And therefore the flowers everywhere. It was great to be among these 200000 when everyone raised their flower up towards the sky in silence. I could not imagine so many people being silent together just like that. No one told us to be silent. It just happened and everyone was silent for a while. The only thing we could hear was a bird crying over us. I do hope and pray that all of us will keep that moment with the wish of love close to our hearts, and not change it to hatred and anger. Please keep us in your prayers. *Sr. Ane-Elisabet*

From St Lucy's

St Lucy's is a Dominican co-educational Catholic primary school providing an education of excellence for children with disabilities and is based at Wahroonga, Sydney, with satellite classes on the Northern Beaches.

St Lucy's thanked its volunteers with high tea on Friday July 22. The school now has around 120 volunteers working in classrooms or in training to help with Multilit and occupational and speech therapy programs but they don't always get the chance to socialise. Friday's event was an opportunity for them to meet, watch a student performance and hear about how their contribution is improving the children's lives. St Lucy's was founded by the Dominican Sisters and remains imbued by St Dominic's tradition of passion and compassion. Parent Michelle Gough told the crowd how grateful she is that volunteers not only care for the children but often grow to love them, "It reaffirms what is said about the Dominican value of inclusion; to know there is someone out there who loves your child is just wonderful." She was followed by a presentation from Marg O'Shea, who promotes charism in Dominican schools. Marg encouraged the volunteers to feel part of the international Dominican family and recounted the history of the Sisters in Australia and their continued contribution in areas like refugee and prison counselling and eco development. The volunteers also had the opportunity to thank Patricia McCarthy, who has decided to move on from the role of Volunteer Co-ordinator after three and a half very successful years. *Christina Barriere*

Justice and Peace – Message from the UN 28th July 2011

Dear Friends, While summer days at the UN are relatively slow, with very few formal meetings scheduled, we, along with many of our NGO colleagues continue to prepare for significant conversations which will take place when the General Assembly opens in September. Among these conversations are...

Reform of the Security Council – to reflect the reality of today's world. This would entail, among other things, expanding the number of permanent Council seats. Germany, Japan, Brazil, India, South Africa, Nigeria are among the nations that have won significant support for this status. However, the five permanent members – US, Russia, China, Britain and France - prefer to maintain their virtual control, which includes the power of the veto.

Rio + 20 - the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, which will take place June 4-6, 2012, in Brazil. This gathering will mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 Earth Summit, as well as the Earth Charter. It will be an opportunity to take stock of the health of the Planet, and the ways in which our patterns of consumption and development contribute to its flourishing or destruction.

Poverty Eradication and the MDGs - As global wealth becomes more and more concentrated in the hands of a "few," millions of our brothers and sisters are doomed to lives of abject poverty. The Commission on Social Development will focus once again on this topic at its February 2012 session. One thing we can be sure of in the upcoming UN discussions on these and other important topics is the posturing and rhetoric of governments who do the bidding of "special interest groups," while largely ignoring the greater common good. And, what is played out on a global scale, we see happening today in Congress, as we witness a refusal to budge on "special interests," and move towards an appropriate compromise on the debt ceiling crisis and deficit reduction – a compromise that would not place an unfair burden on the backs of the most vulnerable among us.

...We believe that this moment offers us a concrete way to "**think globally, act locally**," for every decision we make here in the US, impacts the entire international community. "**Budgets are moral documents and how we reduce future deficits are historic and defining moral choices.**" Wishing you peaceful summer days, *Lucianne Siers, OP Margaret Mayce, OP* www.dsiop.org

"How do we announce the Good News in a communal way and in an Inter-Cultural Context.

The Dominican Promoters of Preaching of the Western Region of the United States are responding collaboratively to the question, "How do we announce the Good News in a communal way and in an Inter-Cultural Context." The Promoters in the Western Region include the Province of the Holy Name of Jesus (Friars) and five congregations of Dominican sisters who have motherhouses in the region and/or have a significant number of sisters ministering in the region. The sisters'

congregations represented are Adrian, Michigan; Mission San Jose, California; San Rafael, California; Sinsinawa, Wisconsin and Tacoma, Washington State.

Together, we hold a vision which reverences and affirms the dignity of each person as we seek to bring the Gospel to bear with depth and compassion on the critical issues of our times. We claim our teaching and preaching charism through a variety of ministries: parish, hospital, all levels of education, high school/university campus ministry, retreat, spiritual-direction, pulpit-preaching and justice issues with particular attention to those issues that are reflected in the following corporate stances. These corporate stances evidence our commitment to work toward a more just society and world. They are intended to lift the burdens of the underprivileged and marginalized and to give voice to those without representation, many of whom are from diverse cultures. The following corporate stances represent a collation of the corporate stances and public statements of the above congregations and province.

We support:

Political refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala by means of Public Sanctuary

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Earth Charter

Compassionate Immigration Reform

We work to end:

The death penalty

Proliferation of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction

The war in Iraq

Trafficking of persons, especially women and children

Landmines

We will continue to support these corporate stances by the following actions.

Prayer - both individually and congregationally, praying for courage, wisdom and perseverance to bring about a more justice society,

Ministry – in non-violent ways to attain our goals,

Education – of ourselves and others regarding the magnitude, causes and consequences of these issues,

Collaboration- with advocacy and justice groups (i.e. our Non Governmental Organization affiliations, justice organizations and other inter-faith justice organizations.),

Advocacy - for policies and programs that address the prevention and elimination of these evils and/or provide alternative solutions,

Influence - others through our economic, social and religious power to create a more just and environmentally sustainable society.

Promoters of Preaching from The Western Region of the United States

Patricia Bruno, O.P., Congregation of the Most Holy Name, San Rafael, California (Congregational Promoter of Preaching and chair of the Western Region's Promoters of Preaching) Patricia Beattie,

O.P., Sisters of St. Dominic of Tacoma, Washington State (Congregational Promoter of Preaching)

Marian Castelluccio, O.P., Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan (Western Region Promoter of Preaching) Mary Ellen Green, O.P., Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, Wisconsin (Western Region Promoter of Preaching)

Elizabeth O'Donnell, O.P., Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, Fremont, California (Congregational Promoter) Denis Reilly, O.P., a member of the Western Province of Friars in the U.S. (Promoter of Preaching for the Friars of the Western Province) www.op.org

“The Canticle of the Universe” – an Art Exhibition

An internationally acclaimed artwork created by HIV AIDS affected women will be exhibited at Australian Catholic University's (ACU) **Brisbane** Campus, opening 29 August at 6.30pm, and at **Strathfield** Campus, McGlade Gallery, opening 12th August at 6 pm.

The 'Canticle of the Universe', created by women from the Kopanang Community Trust in South Africa, depicts the story of cosmic evolution on 31 embroidered textile panels with the entire work being over 32 metres in length.

Sydney: 6pm Friday 12th August – 26th August, 11.00am – 4 pm.

Brisbane: 6.30 pm 29th August – 17th September, 9.00am – 5 pm weekdays.

Dominican Calendar

Aug-2 Bl. Jane de Aza (+1205) Spanish, mother of our Holy Father Dominic and of Bl. Mannes housewife.

Aug-3 Bl. Augustine Kazotic (1260-1323) Croatian, priest, preacher, administrator, Bishop of Zagreb, later of Lucera.

Aug-8 – 5th in Australia, making way for St Mary Mackillop.

OUR HOLY FATHER DOMINIC (1170-1221) Solemnity. Saint, Spanish, priest, scholar, ascetic, mystic, apologist, innovator, miracle-worker, founder of the Order of Preachers, eloquent preacher. Church appointed patron of the Order, of astronomers, of the Dominican Republic, and of religious priests as St. John Vianney is of diocesan priests.

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