



# OPFAM

## Dominican Family Matters

Newsletter of the Dominican Family in Australia, New Zealand, Solomons and Papua New Guinea

**2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008**

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### **World Youth Day Sydney 2008!**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

**DOMINICAN Welcome:** Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July  
Santa Sabina College Strathfield.  
Email: [wyd@opeast.org.au](mailto:wyd@opeast.org.au)

Obtain the latest **Dominican Welcome Newsletters** on [www.opeast.org.au](http://www.opeast.org.au)

For other Dominican Events see  
Dominican Friars Assumption Province: [www.australia.op.org](http://www.australia.op.org)

Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands and their friends rejoice in being able to sponsor 24 Dominican pilgrims to attend World Youth Day in Sydney.

10 Solomon Islanders 11 South Africans 3 East Timorese

They will join us for the Dominican Welcome prior to participating in the Sydney WYD activities.

### ***Following Up...!***

Thank you **Fr Peter Murnane** for your response. It seems that the media reports were often faulty. For the true story, and consequent happenings see [www.ploughshares.org.nz](http://www.ploughshares.org.nz).

Our prayers are asked for the next meeting of the **International Committee of Lay Dominicans** to be held in Cameroon June 19-22, 2008. We look forward to hearing June's report of this special gathering

### **Solomon Islands**

Our prayers are requested for the upcoming 8th Assembly of Dominican Sisters, Holy Rosary Vicariate, on 22-25<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Dominican Sisters fail to force Exxon on emission targets**

Published: May 29, 2008

Shareholders of oil company Exxon have rejected resolutions submitted by Dominican Sisters in the United States which would have required the company to adopt formal greenhouse gas reduction targets.

## [First Dominican Brother to be elected prior, in 791 year history of the Order.](#)

Based on a TIME magazine regular feature interviews with influential Dominicans appear occasionally on DomLife.org

**Brother Herman Johnson, OP** Herman Johnson, OP was elected prior of St. Anthony of Padua Priory in September of 2007. **This is the first time in the 791 year history of the Dominican friars that a cooperator brother has been elected a local superior.** He received his M.Th. and M.Div. from the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley, CA, an M.A. in mental health counseling from Xavier University, and a Doctor of Education from Columbia University Teachers College in New York. Presently Herman is assistant professor of Spanish at Xavier University and is director of, and preacher for, Southern Dominican Global Missions.

**1. Bro. Herman, what drew you to Dominican Life in the first place?** Nothing but my encounter with St. Martin de Porres. At the age of ten, a pamphlet of his life appeared in my home. I was struck by his dark skin color as well as his gentleness towards both humans and animals. For the most part, he lived without status and prestige, yet was fully validated by God's love. Like all great saints, love of God and people were one and the same thing.

**2. What drew you to choose becoming a brother over becoming a priest?**

My temperament is more suited for the life of a religious brother. Although Dominican brothers as well as priests share the same call to preach, I am more than happy with the relational manner in which I preach through a range of vehicles. The routine ritual life of the priest did not attract me. My choice has been secured in the joy that has accompanied this somewhat misunderstood vocation. During formation studies there was a brief glance at the priesthood, yet it was only a glance. In the past, a love of study could be construed as certain call to priesthood. Yet I survived this restrictive association to be a brother and grew in accord with my talents. Of course I was greatly aided by the community.

**3. Why has it taken almost 800 years for the Order to elect a brother as prior?** Canon Law- nothing else! Past Masters of the order have called for change. My earliest recollection for a call to change came from de Couesnongle and intensified with Timothy Radcliffe. When I was elected and not considered as a Prior in 1999 Timothy wrote me and encouraged the province to continue to promote this change as many things in canon law are changeable. not a promotion but a new expression of fraternity. As such, brothers in leadership roles becomes normal.

**9 If you could have every Dominican in the US read a particular book what would it be and why?** Naming Grace: Preaching and the Sacramental Imagination, Mary Catherine Hilker, O.P. I've read a number of books on preaching that are good, yet Naming Grace is a must read as an excellent synthesis of all contemporary theological and well as practical thought and preaching praxis. The reader is challenged to have an expanded notion of where the Word resides and how it is proclaimed.

Anne Lythgoe, OP editor *For full article see [www.domlife.org](http://www.domlife.org)*

## [We Remember in Prayer:](#)

Apologies - Correction: Sr M. Angela Byrne OP was a member of Holy Cross Congregation, not North Adelaide, and she died on 12th February not 11th February,

## [Dominican Calendar this week](#)

2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Bl Sadoc, friar and priest, and companions, martyrs
4 <sup>th</sup> June	St Peter of Verona, friar, priest and martyr MEMORIAL

*Please send contributions – short paragraphs – about Dominican Life in your area to [archives5@bigpond.com.au](mailto:archives5@bigpond.com.au) – OFTEN!*