



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"

2 March 2010

Dominican Thought for the Week

What is very much needed is a 'presence' of faith in the newest media of communication. Dominic used oral communication, that being at his time the main medium that could reach people, influence them perhaps, in the direction of Christian conversion. Today, clearly, the media are not powerful only in providing bridges of communication: they also play a role akin to one both religion and family played for centuries, that of being the 'venue' for the development of values – in relation to what was real and was truly worthy and what was not and a general sense of ethics.... D. Cadrin O

Those who have died

Sr M. Elizabeth Connolly OP of the North Adelaide Congregation of Dominican Sisters died on the 22nd of February after a long illness. Elizabeth spent some years as Novice Mistress in the Solomon Islands. We express our sympathy to her religious Sisters, and pray that she will continue to intercede for the Sisters in the Solomons and their ministries.

Mrs Shirley Carroll died very suddenly on 26th February. Shirley was an Associate of the Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia. The devoted mother of a very large family, Shirley was closely associated with ministry among people with hearing loss, and as such known to many Dominicans. Shirley was an extraordinarily generous woman who also found time to be very active in her parish, co-ordinator of Life Ascending Australia, a quilter, as well as mentor and great friend to so many.

May Elizabeth and Shirley rest in peace. And may their grieving families find peace and comfort.

A very special birthday and anniversary

In Tamworth there was a joyful gathering recently for Sr M. Ursula Kennedy OP as she began her 100th year. On 7th March Sister celebrates 70 years of Religious Profession as a Dominican. Sister is a great prayer for us all.

Asia - Pacific Region of the Dominican Family

Did you know that there is an official 'Asia-Pacific Region' of the Order?

There are Sisters and/or Friars, Nuns and Lay members in: Cambodia, Chian, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Macao, South Korea, Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Singapore, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Arabian Gulf, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Jordan, Iran, Egypt, Australia, Solomon Islands, Micronesia, North Marianas, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Numbers are approximately 709 friars, 3,750 Sisters, 180 nuns, and 65,000 lay

Dominicans. There are also a number of Dominican Volunteers as well as members of the Dominican Youth Movement (10,000 in the Philippines alone.)

Adrian Dominicans

The Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan held their General Chapter from February 17-27, 2010. This is the largest Congregation in the United States, with 835 members. Elections of new prioress and councilors were held on Feb 25-26. Some of the business of the days preceding the election were discussion and admission of new Chapters of Dominican Communities from Norway, the Philippines and Elkins Park, PA.

Adrian, Michigan – “The Adrian Dominican Sisters, during General Chapter 2010, a 10-day planning and election process, affirmed their vision of 2004 to “Seek Truth, Make Peace, Reverence Life” and enhanced this Vision with four commitments that they will challenge one another to live into for the next six years. ...

In the next six years and beyond, the sisters commit themselves to living simply and sustainably; studying emerging theologies and worldviews; allowing themselves to be transformed by people of diverse races, cultures, classes, and faith traditions; and claiming their authority to speak truth in Church and society.

Sister Attracta Kelly, OP, the new Prioress, has been the director and an attorney for nearly 11 years for an immigration law program for low-income immigrants residing in North Carolina. She has also worked in Legal Aid in Washington, D.C. and served as an asylum advocate for the Jesuit Refugee Service in Dublin. In addition, Sister Attracta was a community organizer at a low-income African-American community in Tennessee; served on the General Council for the Adrian Sisters from 1986-1992.

Coming Event

From Bishop Anthony Fisher OP

Please convey to all OPFAM readers my invitation to the Dominican family to attend my installation as Bishop of Parramatta at 7:30 pm on March 4th at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta and afterwards to supper across the road at the Mercy convent.

Dominican Calendar this week

No Dominican Feasts this coming week.

Dominican Heritage Tour 3rd - 28th May 2010 – Places still 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. Time to make a decision has arrived -archives5@bigpond.com.au.

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