



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;

30th August 2011

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

Dominican Thought For the Week

“Lessons of humanism, spirituality and effort to raise man's dignity, are taught to us by Antonio Montesinos, Córdoba, Bartolomé de las Casas They are men in whom pulsates concern for the weak, for the defenseless, for the natives; subjects worthy of all respect as persons and as bearers of the image of God, destined for a transcendent vocation. The first International Law has its origin here with Francisco de Vitoria.” *Pope John Paul II. Homily, Santo Domingo, January 25, 1979*

Who were these friars who announced the Gospel? Under what circumstances did they announce the Word of God? What did their preaching achieve? What challenges did they face? What were they announcing? What methods were used for evangelization?

It is important to try to answer these questions – not only for our sake as Dominican men and women, but also for the sake of the Church – because clear proclamation of the gospel will always find opposition.

Introduction to an excellent article In Evangelical Solidarity with the Oppressed by Juan Manuel Pérez García, OP and Francisco Javier Martínez Real, OP, available on www.domlife.com

A Death

Sr M Dominic Galvin OP (WA) died at The Little Sisters of the Poor Home on Friday 19th August, aged 95, in her 71st year as a professed Dominican. Sister came from Newbridge in Ireland and had worked there after leaving school, before she entered the Dominicans. Sister taught in many of our country schools here in Western Australia, and later taught Maths at Siena College in Doubleview. Sister had lived at the St John of God Villas for seven years before moving to the Little Sisters of the Poor last year. She is survived by her sister Jenny, who had made a few trips to Western Australia to see her. May she rest in peace. *Sr Imelda Ryan OP (WA)*

Missionary Dominican Sisters leave Darwin

The last of the Missionary Dominican Sisters of the Rosary recently left Darwin after 39 years of ministry in the Diocese. After the handover of their pastoral ministries in the Karama parish, and the earlier return to the Philippines and Timor Leste of the other two Sisters, Sr Rosalina M Iglesias op departed Darwin on Sunday 28 August 2011. Sr Rosa has returned to the Philippines before taking up her new ministry as part of the Formation team in their intercultural novitiate in Macao. Aspirants and postulants from Vietnam, Myanmar and some other countries in the region will study together in a new venture for these Sisters in Macao. There they will have the support and collaboration of the Dominican friars who already have theological training facilities in that city. When Sister Pam Wood and I made our farewell visit to Rosa recently, she expressed her gratitude also to those Australian op

sisters who had sent farewell messages to her. We added our own good wishes for her community's new developments, and assured her of remembrance in prayer.

Sr Gabrielle Kelly op, Darwin, 29th August, 2011.

New Book by Fr Mark O'Brien OP, Sunday Matters

This book contains reflections on the Sunday Bible Readings for Year B in the Roman Catholic Lectionary. They are intended to assist those preparing homilies or talks on the readings, as well as others whose curiosity and questions have been aroused by these readings. Reflections for Year A were published by ATF in 2010. Reflections for Year C in the liturgical cycle will be published by ATF in 2013. **To order see attached form.**

Sunday matters or should matter to Christians. It is the Lord's day and so the most important day of the week, a time for us to acknowledge God as the source, centre and goal of our lives. Because Sunday is a matter of importance there are important matters to consider on this day, such as time for prayer, worship and being nourished by the Word of God. Sunday also matters because it is a limited amount of time and these days there are a host of other things competing for our time and attention: sport, shopping, TV, travel, etc. Deciding what to do on Sundays and other major days of the Christian calendar has become something of a challenge for contemporary Christians, some would say even a crisis.

The second volume of Sunday Matters for the Readings of Year B invites us to continue the journey into the Lectionary Cycle with an expert and sensitive guide. It is built on the firm foundation of Mark's own life as a Dominican religious, dedicated scholarship, and the concern to ensure that the Word continues to challenge and enliven those with ears to hear and hearts to respond. He is a great listener to the Word and the world, well aware of the needs of homilists and those who seek to understand the readings. The style is deceptive so let the reader beware. Behind straightforward and engaging language lies the desire to allow the Word to invite, challenge and change us. You might never be the same!' *Chris Monaghan Yarra Theological Union, Melbourne*

500th Anniversary

In September 1510, when the Dominicans arrived at Hispaniola, they engaged in pastoral care of the Spaniards and evangelization of the natives. Very soon, the Dominicans became aware of the bad treatment the indigenous peoples received as they were forced to become servants of the Spaniards. Confronted with submission and oppression of the natives, the Dominican community dedicated long hours in meetings to study the problem in depth, until they decided to make a public denouncement of the atrocities.

The friars prepared the denouncement in the form of a sermon to which they gave long and hard deliberation, with the participation of the whole community. Once they decided on the text and wrote it down, it was signed by each one of the members of the community. Fr. Antonio Montesinos was commissioned by the community to preach this homily during the Advent Liturgy in 1511. We celebrate the 500th Anniversary of this significant preaching presence in the Western Hemisphere this upcoming Advent 2011. *For some useful resources see www.domlife.com*

A Film: TAMBIÉN LA LLUVIA (EVEN THE RAIN)

Strongly recommended to all Dominicans by Prakesh Lohale OP, Socius for Apostolic Life

Movie: Tambien la lluvia (Even the Rain)

The film, "Tambien la lluvia" (Even the Rain) premiered in Traverse City, Michigan, at Michael Moore's Film Festival. Moore had this to say about it: "Even the Rain is a brilliant movie. At a time when the poor of the world seem to be rising up, I found myself deeply moved and completely enthralled by this film. I encourage everyone in search of a great movie to go see Even the Rain."

This fictional quest to make a film against all odds, is set against the back drop of the real life "Water Wars," fought against the privatization of Bolivia's water supply in the year 2000 and is anchored in

the philosophies of historian Howard Zinn, as well as the stories of 16th century priests, Fathers Bartolome de las Casas and Antonio Montesinos, the first radical voices of conscience against an Empire. Read an extensive review of the film by Prakash Anthony Lohale, OP, Socius for Apostolic Life in www.domlife.com

Dominican Calendar

- Sept 2nd BI Walter Guala of Bergamo c. 1244. Italian, early Dominican, friend of St Dominic, preacher, Bishop of Brescia.
- BI Ingrid of Skanninge c. 1282. Widow, first Swedish Dominican nun, attracted other women to join her, used her inheritance to build for her group the first Swedish Dominican cloistered monastery after overcoming considerable civil and ecclesiastical hurdles both in Sweden and in Rome.
- Sept 4th BI Catherine of Racconigi 1486-1547. Italian, ascetic, mystic, Lay Dominican
- Sept 5th Commemoration of Deceased Employees and Benefactors of the Order.

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