



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”

30th March 2010

Dominican Thought for the Week

One of the functions of the Church, and of a religious Order, is to try to be present in those places of deafness and incomprehension, to offer a space where conversations may begin...

Shortly before his assassination our Dominican brother Pierre Claverie wrote

“The Church accomplishes its vocation and its mission when she is present in the ruptures which crucify humanity in its flesh and its unity. Jesus is dead spread-eagled between heaven and earth, arms stretched out to gather together the children of God dispersed by the sin which separates them, isolates them and sets them over against each other and against God himself. God has placed himself on the lines of fracture born of this sin. In Algeria, we are on one of these seismic lines which divide the world: Islam/the West/North/South, rich/poor. We are truly in our place, because it is here that one may glimpse the light of Resurrection.”

The Dominican Tradition, ed. T. C. McGonigle, P. Zagano, P.122

Christie's to Offer Valuable Collection of Illuminated Manuscripts

LONDON.- [Christie's](#) announce that they will offer the first part of an extensive selection of exceptional medieval and renaissance masterpieces on 7 July 2010 in London. The Arcana Collection: Exceptional Illuminated Manuscripts and Incunabula Part I is an outstanding private collection which has been assembled over the past 3 decades and which includes personal prayer books made for Royals, Bishops, Aristocracy and other important patrons from the 13th century to the 16th century. These include King François I of France, a leading patron of Leonardo da Vinci and the first owner of his masterpiece The Mona Lisa, as well as King Henry IV of France and Elizabeth de Bohun, great grandmother of King Henry V of England. The collection will offer 48 lots with an overall estimate of £11 million to £16 million, and will be on public exhibition for the first time, alongside Christie's July auction of Old Masters and 19th Century Art from 3 to 7 July 2010.

• A manuscript Bible produced in Italy in the middle of the 13th century with extensive and exquisite painted illustration. It appears to have been made for the use of a convent of Dominican friars - but the borders include diverting genre scenes and fantastical creations far from the routine religious illustrations that might be expected. The death of Theodorico Borgognoni (c.1296) is recorded in the Calendar and he may have commissioned the work: not only a Dominican friar and Bishop of Cervia he was one of the most significant and innovative surgeons of the medieval period. *This Bible carries an estimate of £2,500,000 to £3,500,000.*

Prison Preaching Network established

Dominicans have been active in prison ministry from the very beginning of their religious experience in the 13th century. Some say the founder himself, St. Dominic, visited prisoners in Rome. So did St Catherine of Siena in Italy. Many Dominican provinces and congregations

also have a tradition of prison ministry. Today, around the world, a considerable number of Dominican priests, sisters, and lay people continue this long tradition, bringing the mercy and love of Jesus to the lives of those in prison. However, despite this rich tradition, which includes Fr. Marie Jean Joseph Lataste OP there still does not exist any significant contact, let alone sense of solidarity, between these contemporary “Latastes.”

Consequently, in order to meet these needs, and as part of our Apostolic Mission, on March 4, 2010 a small group was initiated to start building up a Prison Preaching Network (PPN) amongst Dominicans, or Dominican-inspired entities, that are currently working in the prison ministry. The main idea is to create an active network of solidarity amongst Dominicans involved in prison ministry with a special focus on the practical side of the apostolate.

If you are working in prison ministry, or are interested in it, you are invited to join the PPN. Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prisonopnetwork>, follow the instructions and register your name. Fraternally, *Prakash Anthony Lohale*, OP Socius for Apostolic Life
Email:apostolatus@curia.op.org

“Christians do not have an explanation of either suffering or hope, but only the story of Jesus and a cloud of witnesses who throughout history have testified to their experience of resurrection. The Gospel narratives provide clues of where the unexpected grace of hope happens: two companions journey on a road telling the story of their dashed hopes and welcome a stranger who listens to their pain and suddenly reshapes their story from the perspective of the promise and fidelity of God.” Mary Catherine Hilkert OP

May each of you be fragments of the face of God to your companions during this Easter tide, and receive in return the companionship in faith that you long for.

Dominican Calendar this week

No Dominican Feasts until the 5th April, because of the Lenten period.

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