



# 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 800<sup>th</sup> celebration in 2016;*

**31<sup>st</sup> May 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**

#### **AND THE PRESENT SEASON OF THE CHURCH?**

Our season in the Church is no less a season of conflict and tension than was Catherine's time. And no less does our reason for hope lie in those who are willing to be open to each other, no matter what their positions, in our common search for conformity to Truth and Love in Jesus Christ. It is not an easy way. Only witness those who have been willing both to speak their convictions and to maintain their love for and loyalty to the Church even in its limitedness and sinfulness (knowing that none of us is without sin). But if it is indeed the Truth and Love of God that we are about, the service of the Word, we can continue the sometimes painful and always exciting search together even through our very conflicts and tensions, singing as Catherine sang in the midst of rebellion and schism and personal frustration: "My soul is jubilantly happy in this grief -- because among the thorns I smell the fragrance of the rose about to open!" *Sr Suzanne Noffke OP 1989*

### **New Zealand Sister dies after a life of 79 years as a Dominican**

We ask you for prayers for our oldest, Sister M. Imelda Windle who died in Calvary Hospital Invercargill on 4th May 2011. Imelda was in her 98th year and her 79th year of Religious Profession. We thank God for her long and wonderful life.  
*Dominican Sisters of Aotearoa New Zealand.*

### **New International Website “ Frat ” For Lay Dominican Fraternities / Chapters**

I am Jan Frederik Solem, Jordan (of Saxony) is my name in the Order, a professed Lay Dominican since 1991, belonging to the Lay Dominican Fraternity of St. Dominic, Oslo, Norway, Provincial Vicariate of Dacia, Province of France.

On the request of Bro. David Michael Kammler, Promoter General of Dominican Laity, I have worked on a new multi-language website for us, for the Lay Dominican Fraternities, to replace our old website [laici.op.org](http://laici.op.org) (Lay Dominican Crossroads). The new website is called "*Frat*" ([frat.op.org](http://frat.op.org)); not as a result of long discussion and reflection, but because the always helpful and supportive Internet Promoter Bro. Scott Steinkerchner happened to invent it as a working name - and then we realised that it was perfect. Short, it works as an abbreviation of "fraternity, fraternité, fraternidad".

What I have been able to do, is collect our statutes in English, French and Spanish - Fundamental Constitution of the Order, Rule, General Declarations - and write some short explanations here and there. As useful as it is to have a place to find these necessary things, we are not satisfied with only this sort of thing and leave yet another website to collect dust. We would like Frat to be a place where we can share news (from Santa Sabina, the ICLDF, the

continental councils, provincial councils, fraternities...) stories, histories, hagiographies, biographies, old documents, new documents, book reviews, movie reviews, website and blog reviews, talks, experiences and reflections - in (at least) three languages! I don't think we can require everything to be available in several languages before we publish it, because then very little would ever be published. Some stories would only be available in Spanish, others in French or English. Some of them might eventually be translated to one or two of the other languages, if some would volunteer for just that interesting story. Ah. Volunteers...

Our greatest challenge at the moment is that our editorial staff effectively consists of one person: your slow and language-challenged Norwegian brother, me. To complete the work of presenting Lay Dominican Fraternities through Frat, the first thing we need is people who can read English and write French and/or Spanish. To form some kind of editorial staff to Get Things Done, really

And then: Teachers, librarians, journalists, newsletter editors, bloggers, poets, keepers of diaries! We could republish articles from last year's provincial newsletters, as well as original material. Old and new treasures (we have 800 years - and counting - of treasures!), to be shared primarily with other Lay Dominicans across the globe - but of course accessible to anyone, so we might attract some vocations out there. What do you think? How can we make this happen? How can we draw in stories from Lay Dominicans across the globe?

## **St Dominic's Day in Rome**

Tuesday, May 24, 2011, the Dominican Family in Rome met in the basilica of Santa Sabina to celebrate the feast of the translation of the earthly remains of our Father Dominic from his simple tomb to a more noble one in his basilica in Bologna, Italy. This translation started the process for his canonization in the year 1234.

The beautiful tradition of having Friars Minors from their general curia preside at the Mass in Santa Sabina on this feast of St. Dominic was kept and Fr. Massimo Tedoldi OFM represented the Franciscan community. Many friars, sisters and laity participated and the choir from the Dominican church of Our Lady of the Rosary in Rome led by Bro. Rinaldo Giuliani OP gave more beauty to the celebration.

*For more see [www.op.org](http://www.op.org)*

## **Master plants a peace pole in Pakistan**

11 May, 2011 - Bro. Bruno Cardoré OP, Master General of the Dominican Order made history in Pakistan when he planted a Peace Pole at the Peace Centre in Lahore on the 9th of May, 2011 during his official visitation to Pakistan. This beautiful ceremony took place in the presence of more than 40 Dominican friars, Sisters and lay people. Prayers for peace in our country and around the world were offered, peace hymns sung, messages and speeches delivered. During the ceremony each person was holding a flag of one country of the world. It was a great manifestation expressing our longing for peace in the world. [www.op.org](http://www.op.org)

## **South African Sisters live, learn as part of community**

Sister Lethiwe Mazibuko, prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Montebello, arrived in Blauvelt, New York on May 18. Two of her sisters, Ethel Mthembu and Caritas Nakabane, have been studying at Dominican College of Blauvelt since January 2008 and received their degrees on May 22. During that time, they lived in the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, shared life in a local community, and have blessed the congregation with their gift of music during numerous liturgies.

Sister Ethel, who received a bachelor of arts in social work, had been president of the St. John Vianney Children's Home, which provides housing for orphans, children who have been abandoned, neglected, have behavioral problems, or are infected with HIV/AIDS, before she was asked to come to the United States to study. During her time here, she has interned with St. Dominic's Home, the founding mission of the Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt, caring for adults with disabilities. For the last academic year, Sister Ethel has interned at Summit Park Hospital and Nursing Care Center in Pomona, New York, where she has worked with the poor and marginalized of Rockland County. During the school holidays, she enjoyed volunteering at St. Dominic's Home in the Bronx, Paradise House and Tolentine Zeiser, all ministries founded by Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt. When she returns to Montebello, Sister Ethel will be ministering as a social worker.

Sister Caritas, who received a bachelor of science in business administration, was completing her high school education and initial formation in Montebello before being asked to study. She professed

her final vows in December 2007 just prior to leaving for the United States. Like Sister Ethel, Sister Caritas also volunteered at Tolentine Zeiser.

Sister Lethiwe was surprised on her arrival in Blauvelt to find out she would be awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Dominican College. At 41, she is the youngest prioress of her Montebello congregation, and has demonstrated a strong commitment to the poor and marginalized. She has been especially responsive to abused and abandoned women, as well as being active in peace and justice ministries in many areas of South Africa. Sister Mary Eileen O'Brien, president of Dominican College, and Sister Kathleen Sullivan, chancellor of Dominican College, had the opportunity to visit South Africa last December. Sister Lethiwe was a most gracious hostess, and it was there that Sisters Mary Eileen and Kathleen realized how close the Dominicans of Montebello were to the Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt regarding their founding missions and current passion for ministry.

Sisters Nokwanda and Thobile, who arrived in January to study at Dominican College, were delighted to be able to spend time with their prioress, as they have several more years of study before they will return to South Africa.

Previously, Sister Venentia Mthembu received a doctor of physical therapy, Sister Valentine Dlada received a master of social work, and Sister Yvonne Ndolvu received a teaching certificate. The collaboration between the Sisters of Montebello and the Dominicans in the United States is evidence of the strength of the Dominican Family, carrying on the mission of St. Dominic.

*Story and photos provided to DomLife by the [Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt](#).*

*Santa Sabina College Sydney also has a strong relationship with Sisters and Students at Montebello, and make annual visits to the school. They also supported Sisters and Students to attend World Youth Day in Sydney.*

## **A Very Important Date Claimer**

***The Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands are delighted to announce that they have been able to engage Sr Suzanne Noffke OP to come to Australia in late January 2012.***

**Sr Suzanne is a Dominican of Racine Wisconsin. She is world renowned for her work on St Catherine of Siena. She has published annotated translations of Catherine's Dialogue, her Prayers, and four scholarly volumes of her Letters, as well as numerous articles, and her latest book – Catherine of Siena: Vision Through a Distant Eye. She lectures widely and conducts retreats based on Catherine's life and thought. This will be her first visit to Australia. Dates and venues in Sydney and Melbourne will be announced later.**

## **Dominican Calendar**

- Jun-2 Bls. Sadoe & Companions (+1260); Hungarian, priest, preacher, plus entire Community of 49, massacred by Tartars at Sandomir, Poland.
- Jun-4 St. Peter of Verona (+1252) [M] AKA "St Peter Martyr", Italian, priest, zealous preacher, inquisitor, martyred by a heretic near Como," Protomartyr of the Order" because first canonized,
- Jun-8 Bls. Diana d'Andalo (1200-1236); Cecilia Cesarini (1200-1290); Amata (or Amy) Italian, nuns, ascetics, friends of St. Dominic and Bl. Jordan. Bl. Amata had been part of this group, but is nowhere in the current, official Dominican calendar because nothing is known of her other than that she lived with the other two. All three were beatified by Leo XIII in 1891.

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