



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;

5th April 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

We, as God’s children, are not in a competitive relationship with God. In Lent, we are called to worship the one true God, who makes us stand upright. Lent is a time for us to grow into Christian maturity. Thus we can face issues of power, seeking neither domination nor flight from responsibility, but confident that God empowers all with strength and grace and freedom. If we have a mature relationship with power, having been tested ourselves, then we can empower others, unafraid and unthreatened by their flourishing.

Timothy Radcliffe OP ed. Just One Year, Prayer and Worship Throughout the Christian Year, Cafod, 1998

We continue to remember in prayer our Dominican brothers and sisters in countries affected by natural disasters and political strife.

You may not know that there are Sisters and brothers in the following countries

Country	Sisters	Headquarters
Syria	Rosary Sisters	Jerusalem
Jordan	Dominicaines de Ste Catherine de Sienne	Mossoul, Iraq
Jordan	Soeurs de Charite Dominicaines de la Presentation	Rome
Israel	Rosary Sisters	Jerusalem
Israel	Dominicaines de Ste Catherine de Sienne	Mossoul, Iraq
Israel	Soeurs de Charite Dominicaines de la Presentation	Rome
Sudan	Maryknoll Sisters of St Dominic	Maryknoll USA
Ivory Coast	Dominicas de la Anunciata	Madrid, Spain
Ivory Coast	Suore Domenicane del SS. Rosario di Melegnano	Milan, Italy
Ivory Coast	Soeurs de Charite Dominicaines de la Presentation	Rome
Ivory Coast	Suore Domenicane del S.S. Sacramento di Diritto Pontificio	Rome
Egypt	Rosary Sisters of Jerusalem	Jerusalem
Egypt	Dominicaines Missionnaires de Notre Dame de Delivrande Saint Martin d’Heres	France
Congo Brazzaville	Congregation St Dominique (de Gramond)	Rodez France
Congo Brazzaville	Petites Soeurs Dominicaines	St Jean de la Ruelle, France
Dem. Rep. Congo	Filles de Sainte Catherine de Sienne	Isiro, Rep. du Congo
Dem. Rep. Congo	Dominicaines Missionnaires d’Afrique	Kigali, Rwanda
Dem. Rep. Congo	Hermanas Misioneras Dominiccas del Rosario	Madrid

There are also communities of Dominican Fathers in many of these places.

From the Dominican friars in Ivory Coast - Here in Abidjan the socio-political situation is always tense. The shutting down of our social-political life and institutions (i.e., banks, stores, schools, universities, etc.) is such that the authorities at the Catholic University of West Africa (UCAO) had to suspend classes for two months. Consequently, it was decided at the vice-provincial level to send our 35 student brothers out of Abidjan (where we are very vulnerable), and into other communities in the

area until the situation is stabilized. We kept some older brothers *in situ*, just to keep up the convent and to provide the ordinary service. I am still in Abidjan myself; however, if all goes well, in the next days I will return to Yamoussoukro to continue teaching at our young institute, which is still functioning. At the moment, it is safer to stay in Yamoussoukro, but we do not know how long the situation will last. We hope that the crisis will soon wane, considering the ongoing negotiations.

My heart-felt thanks to all of you. We commend ourselves once again to your prayers.

Fraternally

Roger Hounghédji op

Prior Vice-Provincial, West Africa

First Lenten Station Church - Santa Sabina, Rome

– On Ash Wednesday (March 9), at the setting of the sun, Pope Benedict XVI went to the Roman Aventine hill to preside over the celebration at the first Lenten Station Church. Following an old tradition, he arrived at the Benedictine Church of St. Anselm, for a short time of prayer and worship. Then, as the litanies were beginning, the Pope presided the penitential procession to the St. Sabina Basilica, only a hundred meters away. There, he celebrated the Eucharist and the rite of imposition of ashes.

During his homily, Benedict XVI remarked that Lent is not a time of sadness and melancholy; instead, it is a time of grace, which must be lived in its fullness. The Pope warned against any external formalism: the Christian faith is not a law which one must observe, like one would carry a heavy burden imposed by a severe legislator. It is, instead, a road to be traveled, a way of conversion and sincere repentance. Furthermore, Benedict XVI stated that Christians are often the only Gospel that today's people will read. Thus, Christians must become living messages in the midst of a world in distress. Just as he did during the general audience a few hours earlier, the Pope invited the faithful to turn to God and to recognize His holiness and His power because our world is in dire need of God's forgiveness and love. Pope Benedict said that it is urgent to awake our conscience and to free ourselves from the evil that oppresses us. The Pope received ashes at the hands of Cardinal Jozef Tomko, Titular of St. Sabina and in turn imposed them on the Cardinals, Bishops, nuns, religious and some lay people. *IDI*

Dominican Calendar

There are usually no Dominican Feasts celebrated during Lenten days.

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