



# 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; 2010 – “The Mission of Preaching”*

**9<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

### Dominican Thought for the Week

“...I think we need to dig more deeply into what it means and has always meant to “be Church”—a community of believing disciples who carry on the life, preaching, and ministry of Jesus, commissioned and empowered by the Spirit of God. “In North America [Australia?], as preachers, which images of the Church, the *ecclesia*, do we want to promote?” We spend a lot of time sharing our laments about Church leadership and structures, but in every expression of our frustration is an implicit and deeply-held conviction of what it means—and can mean—to be and live as the Church of Jesus Christ in our broken world. Likewise, beneath every setback or disappointment in collaboration is a hope of what could be. Perhaps we need to shift our focus to the question: Which images and experiences of Church and Dominican Family are sources of life and hope for us? And what can we do together to connect and support those fragile, human efforts? What bridges can we build so that those creative efforts and communities don’t die out when a charismatic person or team is no longer able to carry them forward? How—concretely—do we build relationships and collaborate in the mission of preaching the Gospel?” *Mary Catherine Hilkert OP (International Preaching Commission)*

### Death of another valiant Dominican

Many readers will be sad to hear of the death of Sr Annette Dooley OP (EA) (formerly Sr M. Emmanuel), on 5<sup>th</sup> February, after a long illness.

Annette lived her Dominican life with passion, and with wide and far reaching involvement. She will be remembered as a charismatic teacher, of hearing-impaired children, secondary students and migrant women. Annette also worked among aboriginal people, in theatre, and pastorally, especially in her beloved Tingha. She was also a committed member of WATAC and of the Women Writers’ Society, and a great lover of Australian History, (and very proud of her first fleet convict ancestor). She was a student of Dominican spirituality and history all her life. Annette also delighted in Labor politics, and cricket.

Annette had an enormous capacity for friendship and mentoring, and to the last she was vitally engaged with all who came to visit her, despite her personal suffering. Her gracious and always interesting presence among her Sisters and many friends will be sadly missed and remembered with great affection.

Annette was a youthful 86 and had been a Dominican for 59 years. With gratitude to God for her full life, we will farewell Annette tomorrow at a Mass of Christian Burial at Corpus Christi Church, Waratah, Newcastle. May she now experience the fullness of life with God.

## An Update on the Darwin Project

### Dominican Australia-Asia English Language Development project

The recent feast of St Thomas Aquinas on 28 January marked the second anniversary of the beginning of negotiations for a house in Darwin for this project. As noted in *OP Family Matters* almost a year ago (24 March 2009), two Sisters commenced courses at ACL Language centre at Charles Darwin University in that month. A little later, four Sisters in India (Hindi speakers) undertook intensive courses in Bangalore, India, in the “off-shore” stream of the project. Much has happened since then in this Project supported by member Congregations of the Federation of Australian Dominican Sisters.

Sr Hermine Nurhayani (Indonesia) completed her course last June and returned to resume her ministries in the Diocese of Bandung, West Java. With others, Sr Hermine works for justice for exploited workers, and has been organising the forthcoming Regional Dominican Justice & Peace Conference to be hosted in Indonesia in July 2010.

Sr Hieu Tran, having gained Certificates in English III and IV, and the Diploma of English for Academic Studies at Darwin ACL, is this month transferring to the North Adelaide Dominican community to continue with English (at language school) up to the required level for university. When that level is reached, Hieu hopes to undertake professional studies in education at the University of South Australia.

Meantime, Sr Hong Nguyen arrived in Darwin in August 2009 and continues with her language studies for several more months.

It is happy news that this language project now also has a Perth base. On 1<sup>st</sup> February, Sister Chau Ho from Vietnam began her English language course in Perth where she lives in community with the Dominican Sisters of Western Australia at Doubleview. Upon reaching the required level of English for university, Sr Chau also hopes to undertake professional studies in education in Perth.

Soon to arrive in Darwin (11 February 2010) is Sr The Tran, undertaking a 40-week General English course, to be followed in April by Sr Duyen Truong for a similar-length course. In late June or early July, Sr Albertine Suparmi is expected from Indonesia. The Vietnamese Sisters come from three different Vietnamese Dominican Congregations.

Your prayers for the progress of each of these Sisters is requested – that they may gain the skills, knowledge and competence they seek to become better equipped for the ministries through which they hope to serve their people in Vietnam and Indonesia.

*Gabrielle Kelly op. Darwin, 5 February 2010.*

## Coming Events

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.*

20<sup>th</sup> February 2010 marks the occasion of ordination to **Diaconate of Br Timothy Aihora OP**, at Holy Spirit Seminary Chapel, Bomana, Papua New Guinea.

## Are you looking for something ‘new’ for Lent?

IF you are on Broadband, you might like to see what the Diocese of Broken Bay has to offer – a ‘live’ reflection made available from each Monday of Lent, commencing on 15<sup>th</sup> February. This reflection – in the style of the very successful E – Conferences held last year – is accompanied on the website by a *Lectio Divina* booklet, which can already be downloaded. Each segment explores the Gospel of the coming Sunday. A ‘Special Event’ is promised for Holy Week viewing.

The free package is ideal for groups or for individuals, and can be used at any time during Lent.

For further information go to [www.thereflection.vividas.com](http://www.thereflection.vividas.com)

## **Being a Human Shield**

Many people were inspired by the presentation from Donna Mulhearn during the 'Dominican Welcome' component of World Youth Day. Donna is an ex-student of St Mary's Dominican Convent, Maitland. Donna has now written a book 'Ordinary Courage: my journey to Baghdad as a human shield'. It was launched last week – you might like to look out for it in your favourite bookshop!

*"In this powerful memoir, Donna Mulhearn's courage and principles stand in damning contrast to the lies told in our name. I salute her." John Pilger*

## **Dominican Calendar this week**

Feb-12 **Bl. Reginald of Orleans** (1180-1220) French, priest, teacher, preacher, early Dominican, friend of St. Dominic, effective promoter of Dominican vocations.

Feb-13 **Bl. Jordan of Saxony** (1185-1237) [M] German, priest, renowned preacher, diplomat, "the first university chaplain", successor of St. Dominic as Master of the Order, effective promoter of Dominican vocations, patron of Dominican vocation work.

Feb-16 **Bl. Nicholas Paglia** (1197-1255) Italian, priest, mystic.

## **Dominican Heritage Tour 3<sup>rd</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010 – BROCHURES 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](mailto:archives5@bigpond.com.au).

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