



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”

9th March 2010

Dominican Thought for the Week

As Dominicans, we preach because we have been called to do so in whatever creative ways are open to us; it is the passion of our lives. We do not believe that we have a monopoly on extending hope, justice or compassion; patently, we do not. But we have offered to stand in the breach because we have been summoned.

We do not go this road alone. We travel in fine company, eight centuries of it. As Dominicans on the journey of life we offer each other courage and companionship. Our gifts can be utilized for healing, for beholding, for conversion and transformation. All have something sacred to offer, the God-within. As Damian Byrne said, “Prophetic preaching is not merely sharing of knowledge but a joyous proclamation of the living, life-giving word of God.” We have been given what we need. Grace is already outpoured. ‘Give to us, oh give to us, your gentle benediction’ (Catherine).

May our words, whether they be words of protest, blessing or healing, be the gift of God between us.

Sheila Flynn OP in “Towards the Intelligent Use of Liberty”, Dominican Approaches to Education.

Dominican Values in Indonesia

Mr Hilary Regan, Executive Officer of ATF Press, recently advised us of some good news. The Indonesian edition of *Towards the Intelligent Use of Liberty: Dominican Approaches in Education* (ATF Press, Adelaide, 2007) has now been published in Indonesian under the title, *Cerdas Menggunakan Kebebasan, Sebuah Tradisi Pendidikan Dominikan*. By arrangement with ATF Press, Kanisius Publishing (a Jesuit work) in Yogyakarta, arranged for the translation and printing of this book in collaboration with the Indonesian Dominican Sisters.

Those Sisters have arranged its distribution among the many teachers in their schools. In fact, Sr Albertine Suparmi op, author of chapter 24 in the original English edition and Supervisor of the Sisters’ five senior high schools, four secondary colleges and four kindergartens, has given all those teachers an assignment: to read the book!

The Indonesian Dominican Sisters want their students, too (around 5,800 overall), to know something about Dominican values. For the past couple of years, a new ‘subject’ has been introduced into the curriculum at every level, from kindergarten to senior high school called “*Kedominikanan*”. There, students are introduced to those values considered integral to the best of our human, Christian, Dominican heritage.

[It may be of interest to note that a Chinese translation/edition of this book, again with ATF Press agreement, was produced by the Chinese Dominican General Vicariate in Taiwan in 2008. Copies were carefully conveyed to the Dominican Sisters on Mainland China. We understand that a shorter version of the book in a Brazilian edition is in process with the University of Sao Paulo Press in conjunction with the Jesuit Publishing House in Brazil, Loyola, and will be launched most probably in June 2010.]

Gabrielle Kelly op Darwin.

Installation of Bishop Anthony Fisher OP as bishop of Parramatta Diocese

Many Dominicans – Fellow Dominican bishops Chris Cardone and Bernard O’Grady, Fathers, Sisters and Lay Dominicans were there in abundance among the large congregation that witnessed a rich liturgy with beautiful music and singing.

Bishop Anthony talked with humour about his forebear in the diocese, the indomitable Fr Christopher Dowling OP, who was sent to the Parramatta district about 1835, and spoke strongly of his own sense of Mission as he begins his daunting task as bishop of such a large and diverse diocese.

We wish Bishop Anthony every blessing, and many further occasions for humour as well as he faces the challenges ahead.

There are good photos of Anthony’s installation, and the whole ceremony can be streamed, from links under ‘The Diocese of Parramatta’ website.

Latest International Dominican Information Bulletin

www.curia.op.org – for the February edition which has a number of tributes to Fr Edward Schillebeeckx.

Asia - Pacific Region of the Dominican Family

Did you know that there is an official ‘Asia-Pacific Region’ of the Order?

There are Sisters and/or Friars, Nuns and Lay members in: Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Macao, South Korea, Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Singapore, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Arabian Gulf, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Jordan, Iran, Egypt, Australia, Solomon Islands, Micronesia, North Marianas, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea. Numbers are approximately 709 friars, 3,750 Sisters, 180 nuns, and 65,000 lay Dominicans. There are also a number of Dominican Volunteers as well as members of the Dominican Youth Movement (10,000 in the Philippines alone.)

I’ve been advised that the number of lay Dominicans in Vietnam alone is now up to 103,000 Lay Dominicans!

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!