



OPFAM

Dominican Family Matters

*A Newsletter for the Dominican Family in Australia,
New Zealand, Solomon Islands 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;

15th November 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

Martin was the kind of saint that reminds us that the miracle of love happens in the ordinary stuff of every day: sharing a salad and some bread with a friend, brewing a bit of chamomile tea for a stranger who is sick, planting a fig tree for the poor. Nothing too terribly heroic. It brings to mind the bumper sticker which reads: “Practise random acts of kindness.” That is what Martin did. He walked through life with his stub of a candle in his hand and heart and practiced random acts of kindness. That is why he is a saint. In the end, maybe being a saint is not so difficult after all. Perhaps it is all really very ordinary – the miracle of loving here and now, today, in this very world in which I live.

Brian Pierce OP

Congratulations

And prayer-filled good wishes to Brother Joseph Wojem OP who will make Solemn Profession during Mass at the MSC Chapel, Bomana, Papua New Guinea on 27th November 2011

Dominican Preaching Team (United States) Visits Australia Again.

Fr Nicholas Punch writes:

We have now finished the set of renewals planned for 2011, all have been well received. We began in Melbourne at Mitcham, Rosanna/McLeod and Greensborough, then went up to Brisbane and Rochedale, finishing up in Dubbo, NSW.

Most missions follow the same plan, but the talks are adapted to the parishes, and whether we have been there before. As well as giving talks we allow almost half the time in each session to answering questions. We also allow time for individual counseling. At each renewal we have a second rite of Reconciliation (we call it "Family" Reconciliation because we need to be reconciled to one another as well as God), and for the final session have a Mass for the Anointing of the Sick.

This year we had a noticeable increase in the number of young people attending. Much of the credit for that goes to the priests and school staff. Australia is lucky to have schools attached to parishes, and the professional training given to teachers by ACU - since we had access to staff and students the numbers attending increased. We also had seminars for school staff in two parishes which were stimulating.

Many of the questions were about the new translation of the Roman Missal: there is a marked antipathy to the Missal and its justification. And many questions about future ministry, especially liturgical, and of course anxieties about salvation.

We are already booked out for 2012, returning to Melbourne, and then going to Tasmania and Sydney. So much for looking forward to retirement!

Fr Nicholas Punch OP

Better Late Than Never – what can we do next year?

Dominican Family Day
Bro. Bruno Cadore Master of the Order

Following the suggestion of the General Chapter of Providence (ACG Providence, 2001, n° 429), the brothers are invited to celebrate annually a Day for the Dominican Family. The Chapter indicated 7th November, Feast of All Saints of the Order of Preachers, as an appropriate date and this feast now approaches!

On this date we celebrate all the saints of the Order. Of course, there are many we know well and have their own day in our liturgical calendar. But on this day of “all the saints” we also celebrate the memory of all those, known or unknown, who over the centuries have chosen to live visibly with the proclamation of the Gospel as their way of sanctification. Those who are among the multitude of brothers and sisters whom Dominic rejoiced to see, gathered to the Mother of God.

It is this communion in and through the same mission that unites us when we speak of the “Dominican family”. And this communion in the mission is sealed by the shared hope that the proclamation of the Gospel is the road on which we long to hear and welcome the promise of sanctity. And of course, this communion is experienced through our many collaborations and the works and projects undertaken in common. Over the course of my first year of “pilgrimage in the Order” (an expression I am pleased to borrow from fr. Timothy Radcliffe), I have had the great joy of seeing in so many places the numerous achievements of such a communion and to admire the Dominican Family in action. What a pleasure to meet brothers, sisters and laity sharing in the same joy brought by the encounter with Christ; by living in fraternity; by making the Word of Life known; by sowing hope in the heart of the world! Yes, the Dominican Family is not primarily a matter for definition, but it is constructed wherever we are learning together to live this joy of carrying the Gospel into the world, by preaching and contemplation; by our visible work and the more subtle human connections; by a common conviction that the world is capable of goodness and can be built up for God. The Dominican Family is formed wherever, in mutual respect for each one’s particular charism, we wish to proclaim the Gospel though the sign of fraternity.

It is this shared joy we are invited to celebrate by this Annual Day. Without doubt, already, initiatives have been taken in many parts of the Order. And if, in the approach to the Jubilee of the Order, we apply ourselves especially to the organisation of this Day, it would be a beautiful preparation for 2016, which will be an opportunity for all to draw once more from the source of our common mission. One day a year, when we invite all those who, in so many different ways, want to give themselves to this mission. To be creative together in imagining new collaborations, new ways of taking part in this “Family” in which our hope is to be made brothers and sisters by proclaiming the Word of God as Good News for the world. www.op.org

A similar message was also propagated through the Dominican Family Commission, though the date was put as 7th October.

The beatification of the Venerable Servant of God Jean-Joseph Lataste

The Secretariat of State has announced that the rite of Beatification of the Venerable **Jean-Joseph Lataste** will be held in Besançon, France, on Sunday, 3rd June 2012. His Eminence Card. Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints will represent the Holy Father on this occasion.

For your diaries

For some reason the Vatican has changed the celebration of St Dominic’s Day in Australia to **7th August**, and made it an optional memorial....

Exclusive Christmas cards

Designed by students of St Lucy's School with all proceeds to assist St Lucy's.
12 cards (3 x each design for Pack 3) with envelopes. **\$15.00** (inc. GST)

The Dominican primary school for children with disabilities, St Lucy's School in Wahroonga, is selling a selection of beautiful Christmas cards to raise money for its educational programs. Two of the available designs feature colourful biblical artwork by the children and inspiring quotes. They are available through the "news" section of the school's website www.stlucys.nsw.edu.au, or by calling Terry at the front desk on 94871277.

Dominican Calendar

Nov-15 ST ALBERT THE GREAT (1206-1280) [F] German, Bishop of Ratisbon, now known as Regensburg, in S. Germany, theologian of renown, philosopher, scientist, diplomat, teacher, inventor, teacher of St. Thomas Aquinas, called great already in his lifetime, crisscrossed his diocese on foot and so nicknamed "Doctor Boots" by his contemporaries, "Universal Doctor" of the Church, Church appointed patron of scientists, medical technicians, proclaimed Doctor.

Nov-19 Bl. John Benefatti (+1332) Italian, Bishop of Mantua, known for his prudent administrative abilities.

Nov-24 St. Catherine of Alexandria (+310) Egyptian. Virgin, martyr, one of the voices heard by St. Joan of Arc, Church appointed patroness of philosophers, consequently secondary co-patroness of the Order, together with St. Mary Magdalen.

The 117 Martyrs of Vietnam Saints: Ignatius Delgado, Spanish, (+1838) and 5 other Dominican bishops; Vincent Liem, Vietnamese, and 15 other Dominican priests (+1773); 3 priests of the Third Order; Dominic An-Kham, Vietnamese, (+1859) and 9 other Lay Dominicans; 24 parishioners of Dominican missions; and 58 others not associated with the Order, canonized 1988.

Nov-25 Bl. Margaret of Savoy (1382-1464) Italian, noblewoman, wife, stepmother, widow, foundress of nunnery, nun, worked for healing of the Great Western Schism, mystic, friend of St. Vincent Ferrer.

NEXT OPFAM 29th November 2011

Please send contributions – short paragraphs – about Dominican Life in your area to archives@opeast.org.au – OFTEN!