



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;

18th October 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

To love just *as Jesus loved*; Martin de Porres knew that this was no easy task. Daily, though, he worked at putting into practice this new commandment of his gentle Christ. Many years later, another proponent of nonviolence, Cesar Chavez, who spent his life struggling on behalf of farm workers, spoke about the price one pays when committed to this path: “Nonviolence exacts a very high price from one who practises it... [It] takes more guts, if I can put it bluntly, than violence.” It took *guts* and patient endurance for Martin to look into the hateful eyes of those who called him a ‘mulatto dog’ and offer them the healing that comes from authentic love and understanding... *fr Brian Pierce OP*

Our Western Australian Sisters are gathered in Chapter!

We remember them in prayer over the 17th-20th October as they discern what the Spirit has in mind for their congregation for the next four years.

Darwin Project Finishing

The Darwin Project, assisting Indonesian and Vietnamese Dominican Sisters to improve English language competence, finishes at the end of October. A number of scholarships were taken up by Sisters (four from each country) seeking to equip themselves better for further study, ministry and/or participation in the regional and international Dominican network. In a happy and providential unfolding, the Dominican house in Darwin is to be taken over by the Sisters of St. Joseph who will use it to support their ministries in East Timor, the Kimberley region and around Darwin. May their time in Darwin be as blessed as our time has been!
Gabrielle Kelly op 17 October 2011, Darwin

St Martin de Porres – feast 3rd November

Martin de Porres is a saint for all people and all times. Born in Peru in 1579, he died at sixty. His life combined the apostolic zeal of St Dominic, the simple love for creation of St Francis, and the endless compassion for the poor and sick of Teresa of Calcutta. In 1962 he became one of the few saints canonized by Pope John XXIII.

St Martin did not write any books or preach any sermons. His life was his preaching. He initiated a new expression of spiritual life: radical, simple and holy. He had the gift of

spontaneous joy and a capacity for turning the suffering and oppression of the poor into an encounter with God. For that he is known today as the patron saint of social justice. Fr Brian Pierce OP, who has lived and ministered in Peru, Honduras and Guatemala, and presently serves as the Dominican Order's Promotor of Nuns, has written a book about this extraordinary Dominican brother: Martin de Porres, A Saint of the Americas, Ligouri Press, 2004. Each chapter concludes with pertinent reflection questions that can be used for group discussion or personal reflection.

New Master in Sacred Theology

On September 20, 2011, the Master of the Order, Bro. Bruno Cadoré OP, with the unanimous agreement of the General Council, promoted Bro. Paul Brendan Murray OP to Master in Sacred Theology.

Bro Paul belongs to the Irish Province. He was born on the 26th of November 1947. He made his first profession on the 15th of September 1967 and was ordained priest on the 2nd of July 1973. Bro. Paul is President of the Institute of Spirituality and lecturer in Spiritual Theology at the Angelicum in Rome.

In his letter announcing his decision, the Master of the Order writes: "This promotion to the STM (Master in Sacred Theology) is a simple, family way we have in the Order of saying to one of our brothers who has labored hard in the theological field "well done, good and faithful servant" and a way of encouraging him to continue to do so. Paul Murray is a model for the young generation of how we can make theology really responsive to the big questions arising from the spiritual searching of our contemporary world."

Registration required by 18th October

A gathering of reflection, dialogue and prayer for peace and justice in the world, which will coincide with the invitation from Pope Benedict XVI to leaders of world's religious traditions to gather in Assisi.

When: 27 – 28 October Where: Mary MacKillop Place, 80 William St, North Sydney

Registration: Kim Davis, director.opw@catholic.org.au (02) 6201 9867

Dominican Calendar

Oct-19 Bl. Agnes of Langéac, Foundress.

Oct-21 Bl. Peter of Citta di Castello (1390-1445) Italian, priest, contemplative, preacher about death.

Oct-25 Bl. Peter Geremia (1399-1452) Sicilian, priest, theologian of repute, ascetic, preacher.

Oct-26 Bl. Damian of Finale Borgo (+1484) Italian, priest, renowned preacher.

Oct-27 Bl. Bartholomew of Vicenza (1200-1270) Italian, Bishop of Cyprus, later of Vicenza, administrator, founder of a crime-fighting group.

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