



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;

6th September 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

The Pillars Revisited – Fr Donald Goergen OP

A Fresh Look at Dominican Spirituality.... (Whole article can be easily accessed through Google)

These four pillars of Dominican Life – integration, friendship, truth and freedom – help us to appreciate who Dominic’s followers are called to be within the Church and what the charism of Dominic is all about: an integrating, free and fraternal commitment to Truth.

The Dominican Sisters Leave the Armidale Diocese after 135 years.

On this Sunday, the 144th Anniversary of their arrival in Australia, the Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands, take their leave of the Diocese and especially the people of Tamworth, with whom and for whom they have ministered for all those years. 40 Sisters will be joining the local community as the Sisters are formally farewelled.

Please keep the Sisters in your prayers on this sad occasion, as they remember and give thanks to God for all the blessings that have come from their relationship with these great-hearted, faith-filled country people.

More next week.

Radio Ministry in Africa – finding new ways to preach the Gospel

During our Inter Africa General Assembly (IAOP) in Bujumbura, Burundi towards the end of the assembly on 19 August 2011, Brother Prakash Lohale OP moderator of Radio Preaching Forum (RPF) had a brilliant idea. He brought together all those involved in radio ministry in Africa.

And so it was that five of us got together to share what we were doing in radio. In Cameroon Gabriel Samba runs Radio Veritas, a diocesan radio station in Douala, not to be confused with Radio Veritas in South Africa run by Fr Emil Blaser. At one time Gabriel did some training in Johannesburg after which he did more training at Vatican Radio. We were happy to meet Roberto Okon Poco, a Dominican from Equatorial Guinea, the only Spanish speaking country in Africa. They too are planning to establish a Catholic radio station in that country. They already have the licence and all the permissions to launch their station. Unfortunately, Ze Paolo of Angola was not at the meeting as he has extensive experience in radio and communication and now has a doctorate in communications from London. Gustavo Ineza has a lively interest in social media. Liboire Kagabo also has extensive experience in radio. Brother Jose Bolaboto shared his experience of the radio programme in Democratic Republic of Congo. He runs a successful educational programme on the radio at present. Emil shared about his long innings and experiences plus the challenges ahead for Radio Veritas in South Africa

So as we look around Africa, Dominicans have been and still are very involved in radio. This does mean that we could share programmes which could be sent in mp3 format. Language should not be too much of a problem as our radio stations have programmes in different languages. Spanish might be a bit of problem but it's wonderful having Spanish in our galaxy. Africa, indeed, has a rich variety of languages and cultures and means of communication. One of the friars said at the end of the meeting "Often we work alone at our radio station, isolated and a bit cut off. But now we know that we are not alone in this ministry". Our hope is that this network will grow in solidarity and strengthen each other in our preaching on the radio in the continent of Africa. We also dream that this example of RPF – Africa regional networking will also inspire other regions to meet in their regions and share their experiences with the whole Order. *Emil Blaser OP* ebblaser@radioveritas.co.za

The Theology behind Fra Angelico's Paintings

Presenter: Most Rev Bishop Anthony Fisher OP

Fra Angelico's exact date of birth is not known, but 1395 up to about 1400 is the accepted estimate. He was known in Italy as Beato Angelico (the blessed). In 1418 he became a Dominican Friar at the Carmine under his birth name of Guido di Pietro. He was initially trained as an illuminator working with Benedetto, his older brother. He also nurtured a deep religious love of humanity, and had a sense of humility before God. This devotion to his religion shaped his art and his life.

Date: 7 and 14 September 2011

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Venue: Institute for Mission

1-5 Marion St Blacktown

Cost: donation

Booking Essential: 9831 4911 or mh@instituteformission.com.au

Pilgrims of Truth, Pilgrims of Peace

You are invited to attend this gathering which will coincide with the invitation from Pope Benedict XVI to leaders of the world's religious traditions to gather in Assisi for a **prayer day of peace**. Women are leaders in promoting peace in their neighbourhoods, communities and workplaces. This gathering is an opportunity to pray for peace and to learn about vehicles to promote peace and justice in our world.

Keynote speaker: Sr Trish Madigan OP is Chair of the Commission for Interfaith Relations in the Diocese of Broken Bay and Director of CIMER (Dominican Centre for Interfaith Ministry and Research – www.cimer.org.au). She recently returned from Northern Iraq where she took part in a research project "Three Generations of Women in Iraq."

A gathering of reflection, dialogue and prayer for peace and justice in the world.
Pilgrims of truth Pilgrims of peace

When: 27 – 28 October 2011

Where: Mary MacKillop Place, 80 William St, North Sydney

Cost: \$130 full program

Thursday 27 October

10.00am Registration and morning tea

10.45am Welcome

11.00am Sr Trish Madigan OP

1.00pm Lunch

2.00pm Celebrating the stories of Religious Traditions: Mrs Josie Lacey & Mrs Wilma Viswanathan

3.15pm Afternoon tea

3.45pm Prayer

5.00pm Break

6.00pm Dinner Speaker: Mrs Zuleyha Keskin

Friday 28 October
9.00am Movie Of Gods and Men
11.00am Morning tea
11.30am Interfaith Panel:
What does it mean in your tradition to be a pilgrim, prophet or promoter of peace?
1.00pm Closing ritual
1.15pm Lunch and farewell
More info: Kim Davis, director.opw@catholic.org.au (02) 6201 9867
RSVP: 7 October 2011
Sponsored by the Bishops Commission for Church Ministry

500th Anniversary

Wonderful resources for Social Justice issues, with special emphasis on the Montesinos Story, and the presence of the Order in South America over 500 years.
The Site is www.domlife.org (Not 'domlife.com' as noted last week)

Dominican Calendar

- 6th Sept. BI Bernard of Garrigue (c.1230), French, priest, one of the original Dominicans, beloved companion of St Dominic, established the Order throughout France.
- BI Michael Czartorysky (1897-1944) Polish, priest, martyred by the Nazis. Beatified 1999.
- BI Julia Stanislava Rodzinska (1899 – 20.11.1945) Polish, Sister, teacher, administrator; under Nazis continued her ministry clandestinely; as prisoner in death camp (Stutthof), covertly promoted the Rosary and nused sick fellow prisoners, mostly Jews; martyr. Beatified June 18th 1999
- 10th Sept. Foundation Day of Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands 1867.

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