



# DOMINICAN *Central*

NEWS from the PROVINCE OF ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3 2009

## From the Provincial



DEAR FRIENDS  
OF THE FRIARS,

Dominicans  
have always  
had friends.  
From the  
very begin-

ning of the Order, men and women have kindly helped us, making it possible for us to carry out our work of preaching and teaching. Among the first of these was Peter Seila, who lived in the town of Toulouse in southern France. Peter was so impressed by the preaching of Saint Dominic that not only did he join the friars, he gave them their first house. Because of his generosity, the friars were able to establish a base for a mission that would soon include all of Europe and would one day extend to the farthest corners of the world.

This tradition of friendship did not stop with Peter. It continues to the present day. Without our friends and benefactors we could not provide a Dominican education for the students at Fenwick High School or at Aquinas Institute of Theology. We could not staff our parishes and Newman Centers on university campuses. We could not promote justice and the dignity that belongs to every human person.

In short, without the help of friends we could neither proclaim the Gospel of Jesus nor teach our Catholic faith to those who long to learn about him. Because of our friends and their support and belief in what we do, our mission has become truly a shared one, in which our friends not only make

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## The gift of Dominican family

By Judy Augspurger

**M**Y REQUEST was anything but simple. It took every last ounce of courage I could summon to approach the visiting priest celebrating Mass at Regis University in Denver. Yet he made the risk so much easier with his beautiful homily on the Beatitudes. It was as if through that Dominican preacher, Fr. Louie Morrone, O.P., God was saying: "Take a risk on me, Judy."

I had first met Fr. Louie three months earlier at Regis, but coincidentally—no, providentially—the very next time each of us went to Regis was the same Sunday. That second time there could be no more excuses.

My simple request: "Can I talk to you some time?" and Fr. Louie's natural response, "Oh, sure. No problem. Just come by the novitiate," was anything but naturally assured. As the novice master, he is very busy and certainly did not need to take on additional pastoral work. But his response was unhesitatingly generous.

Looking back, it was an answer to many prayers to Saint Jude. It opened up my family and myself to a whole new world: The Order of Preachers. A world where I have found compassion, healing, and a profound sense of family.



The Order's impact on my life increased exponentially when we had our first meeting. I almost fell out my chair when Fr. Louie mentioned the Order's devotion to Our Lady and its Chicago shrine to Saint Jude—two significant parts of my spirituality for more than 30 years.

Dick and Judy Augspurger with a few of their white-robed friends on their special day!

### A new beginning

After two and a half long and very difficult years of detailed paperwork and constant prayer, my husband, Dick, and I celebrated a new beginning in our lives when Fr. Louie blessed our marriage of 30 years. Because of previous marriages, Dick and I were not married in the Catholic Church and I desperately wanted to correct this. In addition to the validation of our marriage,

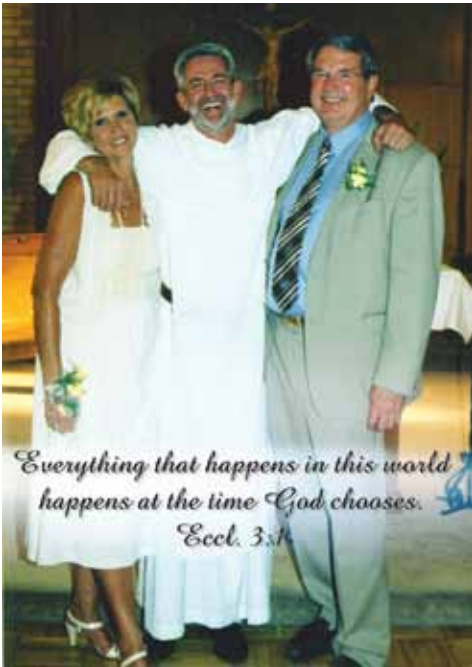
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God, Fr. Louie, and Dick had a truly great surprise for me: Dick, who met secretly with Fr. Louie for a year, was received into the Church and confirmed.

Along our journey, Dick and I were further drawn into the heart of the Dominican family through our interaction with the Dominicans outside of Denver. During a trip to Chicago, we stopped by the provincial headquarters. To our surprise, everybody, from the provincial on down, stopped working to come out and greet us. I have never experienced such a warm, spontaneous outreach in my faith

profound and authentic sense of family—a deep and long-sought desire of mine—through my relationship with the Dominicans. They have truly become the clearest expression of that promise of God for me.

All of these blessings were made possible by the initial generosity of Fr. Louie in his simple “yes” to a stranger’s request for help. We are truly grateful to him for his guidance, ministry, and friendship as well as all the new friendships made possible within the extended family of Dominicans and friars in Denver, Chicago, and St. Louis.



The relic of the arm of Saint Jude at the Dominican Shrine of St. Jude in Chicago.

*Dick and Judy have been generous patrons of the Dominican Shrine of St. Jude, the Society for Vocational Support, and Aquinas Institute of Theology.*

Fr. Louie with the happy couple after the blessing of their marriage and Dick’s reception into the Church.

life. To top it off, we visited the Shrine of St. Jude where the director gave us the opportunity to venerate a relic of Saint Jude’s arm.

A year later, we visited the wonderful student brothers and their beautiful, newly renovated school, the Aquinas Institute of Theology, in St. Louis.

### A simple “yes”

It brings me to tears to know that I am gifted with the most

### *From the Provincial (continued from page 1)*

our work possible, but in a real sense preach the Good News of Jesus right alongside of us.

In particular, we as a Province remember those friends and benefactors who help us to care for our sick and elderly brothers, friars who have imitated Christ by giving their lives to the people whom they have served so well. We are likewise grateful for those men and women who help to educate and form the next generation of friars, young men who will one day help to transform the lives of others, just like the Dominicans before them. Like Peter Seila these many friends and benefactors remain forever in our memory and in our prayers as we thank God for their and your continued support and generosity to us.

Yours in St. Dominic,  
Fr. Michael Mascari, O.P.  
Prior Provincial



## THANKS FOR SUPPORTING OUR SONS' VOCATIONS!

Parents gather at the third Annual Dominican Parents Club Weekend

We appreciate any donation you can send us. An envelope is enclosed.

For further information, contact:  
Dominican Central  
Director, Mission Advancement  
2005 South Ashland Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60608-2905

## MISSION STATEMENT

THE DOMINICAN FRIARS  
OF THE PROVINCE OF ST. ALBERT THE GREAT  
*COMMUNICATE THE WORD OF GOD THROUGH  
PREACHING, THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION,  
AND THE PROMOTION OF JUSTICE AND PEACE.*

THIS MISSION IN THE BODY OF CHRIST  
DEMANDS A VOWED COMMUNITY LIFE, LITURGICAL  
PRAYER, AND LIFELONG STUDY.

## Why I hang with the Dominicans

IT'S A *COME AND SEE*," said the friendly, monkish-looking man in white, "not a 'Come and Sign.'" He said it with a smile. That was the pitch from the two Dominican guest preachers on a winter Sunday as I toiled through law school. They were offering a weekend with the Student Brothers in St. Louis for fellowship and discernment, open to any young man with an open heart.

I heard those words at a time when my spiritual life was in dire need of going deeper, and I felt that I needed a transformative experience to get me there. In retrospect, attending a retreat for young men considering the priesthood was probably a little overdoing it considering where I was in regard to that particular sacrament. But like learning to speak



Derek Neathery is a Chicago lawyer who supports Dominican education through the *Society for Vocational Support*.

a foreign language, total immersion is the best way to go.

What I got from that weekend was not a commission from provincial headquarters or even an ambiguous voice in the middle of the night calling my name (probably wouldn't have heard it over my snoring, anyway). Instead, I got a crash course in the daily life of the Dominicans, and I left St. Louis with a feeling that I wanted to be around these guys for the rest of my life.

Of everything I learned about the life that is a Dominican's—the life of prayer, study and preaching, of constant cultivation of the interior life, one's soul and one's intellect, right alongside tireless service to the laity outside the Priory walls—the most compelling was what I first experienced that winter Sunday: the ebullient joy pouring forth from the two Dominicans who pitched the *Come and See*. Their joy was palpable and attractive and genuine, and I soon became convinced beyond question (and I'm a questioning kind of guy) that the life these men lived was authentically joyful.

How could I not go and see that? What if I could transform my life like they have theirs? Aquinas put it best, "Joy is the noblest human act." Reduced to its most salient part, to me, the life of a Dominican is a life of joy. Who wouldn't want to be around that?

—Derek Neathery



## My 40-year love affair with the Order

THE SONS OF ST. DOMINIC entered my life in 1948 when I entered the College of Saint Teresa in Winona, Minnesota. It was the era that stressed teaching theology and philosophy to women. Our text was *Companion to the Summa* by Walter Farrell, O.P. Going from the Baltimore Catechism to proving the existence of God from reason required a giant leap of faith. Our gentle teachers, Frs. Athanasius Van Noenen and Gaudentius Altoff, made the transition as painless as possible. They had escaped Nazi Germany in 1938 and had spent some time in Ireland before teaching us.

Our saintly chaplain, Thomas George Kinsella, O.P., repeatedly challenged us: "If you knew how God loves you." It was all good, but I was eager for Thanksgiving break and my home parish where the sermons made more sense. Our pastor had the Mass, but a man in black and white appeared in the pulpit, preaching for Dominican missions.

In 1949, St. Peter Martyr Priory was completed and more Dominicans descended on our campus. Fr. Charles Reginald Malatesta, in his pre-luncheon class specialized in

analogies that involved steak and lemon pie.

Even so, he was a good teacher and a friend to many of us all his life.

The prior, Fr. Vincent Reginald Hughes, had a Boston accent and assured us that we would get tired of turkey if we had it every day. Every

Thanksgiving proves him right. Periodically, the prior would cancel

his 4 p.m. Friday class to take the afternoon Hiawatha to Milwaukee or Chicago "to cover a Thomist lecture." Many of us who took jobs in those cities sought out these Thomist lectures where professional people could become well-versed in theology.



Liz Reinartz and Br. Ed have been friends since she came to Blessed Sacrament Parish in Madison, WI in the early 1960s.

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## FROM THE PROMOTER OF VOCATIONS

### Out with the old and in with the new

**NOTE**

THE NEXT Come & See Vocation Weekend is Oct. 2-4, 2009 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Contact: Fr. Wisdom at (312) 243-0011 ext. 36 or wisdomop@yahoo.com



**A**LL GOOD THINGS must come to an end. So the saying goes, but with religious life it just keeps getting better!

The “old” novices are seen above making their simple profession, after which they were assigned to St. Dominic Priory in St. Louis. There they will take up their theological and philosophical studies in order to complete their formation as Dominican religious and priests. The current novices are pictured (right) with the Novice Master, Prior, and Vicar Provincial after officially becoming the “new” novices at their Vestition Ceremony, where they

received the holy habit of Saint Dominic. They now begin a year-long immersion into Dominican religious life with an emphasis on community and prayer, both liturgical and personal.

Please keep all our Dominican religious in formation in your daily prayers and know that your support is vital and greatly appreciated.

—Fr. Andrew Carl Wisdom, O.P.  
wisdomop@yahoo.com



### Real people ... real stories

**V**OCATIONS WORK is all about relationships. Obviously this is most true in helping young men to discern their call in life, but it is also true concerning the Order’s relationship to our friends and benefactors. In addition to my work with vocational candidates this summer, I have also been privileged to answer more than 200 notes from members of the Society for Vocational Support and other benefactors. This ministry helped me to understand our relationships in a new and I believe rather radical way.

The names struck me first. I had been taught from my first association with the Order to remember each day all of our benefactors and their intentions in prayer. Suddenly these were no longer nameless or generic benefactors, but Tom from Ohio, Sharon from Chicago, and Greg from Iowa. Our patrons became real people with real stories, and that not only made them easier to pray for, but helped me to understand better just what their gifts really meant.

The requests that are entrusted to us in prayer are

intimate, heartfelt, and profound: *Please pray for an end to the war, and that my husband would recover from his injuries. That all the young Dominicans in formation would persevere, and for more vocations to the priesthood and to the Order. For a happy death for my wife, and that I would have the strength to continue on without her.*

We Dominicans are very conscious of the way in which we rely upon our benefactors, but until I was charged with answering these letters, I was not aware of just how much others rely upon us. I am reminded daily now of my responsibility to pray for those who make our way of life possible, as well as the great gift that our relationship is to each other. Our interdependence in prayer and good works is the lifeblood of the Body of Christ, and we are blessed to share in it.

—Br. Dominic McManus, O.P.  
dominicop@gmail.com



## Patrons make the difference at St. Pius V Parish

LOCATED IN CHICAGO'S Pilsen neighborhood, St. Pius V has been a Dominican parish since 1927. It has always served poor immigrants, at first Irish, then Polish, and then, since the late 1950s, Hispanics, predominantly Mexican. All these immigrant groups considered St. Pius V as more than a place of worship and religious education. For them, St. Pius V is a safe haven, a community they can trust to welcome, counsel, and protect them.

Today, thousands of immigrants come to St. Pius V each year with a vast array of needs. Those who arrive in search of food find our food pantry and soup kitchen; those in search of clothing discover our second-hand store; those looking for housing find our 24-hour shelter for men and a development corporation that has built 154 new affordable homes and manages 350 affordable apartments; those needing legal assistance are served by a low-cost legal aid office.

Immigrant families experience unique challenges because of their need to adapt to a new world. Many of their children feel confused and alienated. To respond, St. Pius V has developed multifaceted programs to assist families in their transition. Its school provides excellent Catholic educa-



Former pastor Fr. Chuck helps out the current pastor, Fr. Brendan Curran, O.P. with a special liturgy for friends of St. Pius V.

tion for 240 students. In 1996 in response to the high levels of gang violence, the parish created a free-standing youth center, Casa Juan Diego, which serves 100 students—ages 6 through 18—daily with tutoring, cultural activities such as art, dance, and music, as well as sports, computer training, faith formation, and life skills.

To help families with internal conflicts resulting from alcohol abuse, domestic violence, or simply intergenerational tensions, St. Pius V developed specific responses, such as the largest parish counseling program in the country for women and children victims of domestic violence, a parenting program to support parents with child-rearing issues in a new culture, and a couples program to help them strengthen their marital relationship.

Parishioners of St. Pius V are considered the “working poor.” Most children in the parish qualify for government-funded lunch programs. The needs of our parish community are extraordinary, and the parish could not sustain its myriad services without the generous support of many benefactors. Sunday collections and parish fundraisers are not sufficient to finance the breadth of its services. Many individuals and institutions from outside the parish see St. Pius V as a mission church and support its work with generous donations.

St. Pius V is more than a traditional parish. It is a safe haven for thousands of Hispanic immigrants, many of whom join our community and others who continue on their journey after receiving a helping hand. We trust that all who pass through the doors of St. Pius V have experienced the love and compassion of Our Lord Jesus. Without the generosity of our benefactors our ministry would not be possible. May God bless them for their generosity.

—Fr. Chuck Dahm, O.P.  
cdahm@sbcglobal.net



*The needs of our parish community are extraordinary, and the parish could not sustain its myriad services without the generous support of many benefactors.*

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One of the lecturers, Athanasius Weishaepel, paid me the compliment of my life when after a lively discussion he told me that I sounded like one of the men.

I came to Madison in 1961 and ended up in St. James Parish. I came to the Dominican Parish of Blessed Sacrament after making an appeal to the pastor, Fr. James Gillis, who said I could stay if I got an OK from the pastor of St. James. He must have recognized incurable Dominican traits

in me because he gave me his blessing and freed me for Blessed Sacrament!

In 40 years since, I have been shaped by the charisms of Dominican preaching, teaching, and friendship—profound influences that have endured to this day.

—Elizabeth Reinartz

*Elizabeth has been a long-time supporter of the Society for Vocational Support.*





## Windows to the Divine

*An interview with Shannon Robinson, vice president of the Colorado Dominican Vocation Foundation (CDVF):*

### *How did you first get to know the Dominicans?*

Through my parish in Longmont, Colorado. There were several visiting Dominicans who would help out celebrating Sunday liturgies. At one point I invited them over to my house and one of them said: “You know, everyone has a vocation. Do you know, Shannon, what yours is?” “No, not really,” I replied. “It’s hospitality.” To which I responded with surprised enthusiasm: “That counts?”

### *What did you find so compelling about the Dominicans that you decided to get involved?*

The Dominican passion for education. My husband, Mike, is an academician, so this really spoke to us. Also, the Dominicans we met were so well versed in many disciplines. This often came through in very well-prepared homilies. Other notable aspects of the Dominican life that stood out for us were the vow of poverty, the strong example of their lives lived together in community, and the democratic nature of the Order’s governance.

### *What was CDVF’s founding purpose?*

The more those of us at Longmont experienced the Dominicans, the more we realized we wanted to get involved and support their mission at its earliest stages, namely the Dominican novitiate. The novitiate is the first year of formation for a young person testing his religious vocation.

CDVF promotes Dominican vocations by providing



Dominicans from all over the Province attend the annual art show and gather to serenade the guests with the *Salve Regina*.



The promotional signage publicizing the beginning of the month-long art fair that will raise funds for the endowment of the Dominican novitiate in Denver, CO.

spiritual and financial support to these young men in their first year of formation. To that end, the CDVF has successfully hosted a number of events in the community to encourage and support the vocations of Dominicans through supporting the vocations of artists, both of whom share a similar spiritual impulse.

### *Is that the genesis of the “Windows to the Divine” art show?*

Oh, yes. You see, we knew early on we had to come up with a unique way to reach out to people from all walks of life if we were to enlist their support in providing an endowment for young Dominicans. It struck me that the vocation of the artist and the religious are quite similar. The impulse toward spirituality, sensitivity, and the transcendent were a natural part of their personality. Both are focused on life as a journey. One of the most famous Dominicans was a friar by the name of Fra Angelico who was from Florence and lived in the 15th century. I thought: This is our niche, the rich intersection between the vocation of the religious and that of the artist. John Paul II, in his *Letter to Artists* in 1999, when discussing the unique relationship between the artist and the Creator, put it beautifully when he said: “With loving regard, the divine Artist (God) passes on to the human artist a spark of his own surpassing wisdom, calling him to share in his creative power.”

Now, what’s amazing is that initially, we never thought that we would have our own show, but charge an admission fee to someone else’s. So we met with artists, collectors, and gallery owners to see what was possible and one of them suggested what we had never considered: Why not put together your own show? And so that’s what we did, and we are now in our 10th year of existence as a foundation with our sixth “Windows to the Divine” art show opening this October 3 and running through October 23 in Denver at the Madden Museum of Art. Check out the show’s offerings at [www.cdvf.org](http://www.cdvf.org).

# Re-evangelizing America

**M**Y FIRST EXPERIENCE with the Dominicans was based on the song “Dominique,” which my grandmother played for me when I was a young child visiting her in the late ’60s. Even though I didn’t understand the words, I loved the joyful tune because it reminded me of my grandmother and many happy memories. In 1992, the year my first son was born, I was re-introduced to the song when I saw the movie *The Singing Nun*. I researched the English translation of the song and was moved by the message of Saint Dominic. His life was all about preaching the truth and living in a humble way. The refrain drew me in:

Dominique, nique, nique, over the land he plods,  
Never asking for reward  
He just talks about the Lord  
He just talks about the Lord.

As a father of five, I recognize the messages the world gives, the challenges my children face, and how easy it is to get lost in the culture of our time. There is a need for Truth.

In 2000, I was introduced to Br. Edward van Merrienboer, O.P. through a mutual friend. It was from him that I became acquainted with what the Dominicans are doing today. We spoke at length of the Dominicans starting a foundation for the education of their priests. I realized through our conversations that it is America that needs to be evangelized. We ourselves have become a missionary country. The need for re-evangelization in America has never been greater. Thus, there has never been a greater



need for the Dominicans and their mission. *To communicate the Word of God through preaching, theological education, and the promotion of justice and peace.*

As a small child, I was drawn to Saint Dominic because of a song. As a grown man I recognize and am touched by the mission of preaching. That is what the Dominicans are all about. “He just talks about the Lord” as the song says. May the world hear what he has to say.

—Pat Soderlund

*The Soderlunds have been very generous with the Society for Vocational Support, Aquinas Institute of Theology, and supporting our aging, retired friars.*

Pat and Ann Soderlund with their five lovely children.

## IN MEMORIAM



▼ **FR. THOMAS CLARK MOORE, O.P.** passed away on July 5, 2009 in Tucson, Arizona. Fr. Tom was ordained as a priest on May 25, 1957. During his life as a Dominican, he was a teacher of scripture and a parish priest. Fr. Moore was part of the St. Pius X community in

Arizona in the 1980s and after he retired, he returned to St. Pius to live, laugh, love, and celebrate with that community.

▼ **FR. CLETUS WESSELS, O.P.** died on August 12, 2009 in Minneapolis of complications from Alzheimer’s disease. He entered the Dominican Order, and was ordained a priest in 1957. Fr. Wessels taught theology and church history for 18 years at Aquinas Institute of Theology (then in Dubuque). He served as the institute’s academic dean from 1966 to 1972 and its president from 1972 to 1978. He later taught at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids,



Michigan. Fr. Wessels went to St. Albert the Great Parish in 1988, where he served as pastor until 1997. Fr. Wessels gave lectures and missions, led retreats and workshops, and promoted faith formation for adults. He also wrote *The Holy Web* and *Jesus in the New Universe Story*. He was a great community man and perhaps will be remembered most for his love of people.

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Michael Mascari, O.P.  
PROVINCIAL

John Meany, O.P.  
Edward van Merrienboer, O.P.  
VICARS

Andrew Carl Wisdom, O.P.  
EDITOR

Meet us on the internet at:  
[www.op.org/domcentral](http://www.op.org/domcentral)

**Do you have any story ideas, news items, or photos? We welcome your suggestions. Please send them to:**

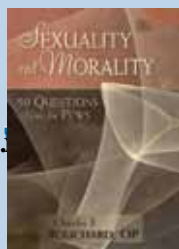
DOMINICAN *Central*  
2005 South Ashland Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60608-2905

E-MAIL: [wisdomop@yahoo.com](mailto:wisdomop@yahoo.com)  
TELEPHONE: 312-243-0011  
FAX: 312-829-8471



**DOMINICAN DOINGS**

♦ **FR. BENEDICT ASHLEY, O.P.** reports that reprints of his two books: *The Arts of Learning and Communication* and *The Dominicans* are forthcoming. *The Way Toward Wisdom* is now available in paperback. He also now has a Wikipedia notice at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benedict\\_Ashley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benedict_Ashley). He and **FR. DOMINIC HOLTZ, O.P.** are completing a translation of a work attributed to



Saint Albert the Great, *The Strong Woman*, a commentary on “the valiant woman” poem in the Book of Proverbs.

♦ **FR. CHARLES E. BOUCHARD, O.P.** wrote a book called *Sexuality and Morality: 50 Questions from the Pews*, which will be available from Liguori Publications in October 2009.

♦ **FR. ED CLEARY, O.P.** presented a paper on the “Lay Preachers Who Preserved Catholicism in Puerto Rico: Los Hermanos Cheos” at the Yale-Edinburgh Conference on World Christianity held at Yale Divinity School last summer. A draft of the paper is posted at WordPress as a blog about Religion in Latin America.

♦ **FR. DAVID DELICH, O.P.** wrote an article in the July-August 2009 issue of *Spirituality* titled “A Royal Priesthood.”

♦ **FR. ANDY MCALPIN, O.P.** has given four Theology on Tap talks within the Archdiocese of Chicago. The talk, “How to Change the World,” focuses on the universal call to intimate communion with God in the contemplative life as the jump-off point for any active ministry within the Church.

♦ **FR. TOM McDERMOTT, O.P.** recently had two articles published on Catherine of Siena. They are: “Catherine of Siena: Living the Lenten Message” in the February 2009 issue of *Liguorian* and “Catherine of Siena and Paul of Tarsus” in *Spirituality* 15 (2009).



♦ **FR. ANDREW CARL WISDOM, O.P.** recently had a book published titled *Advent and Christmas Wisdom from St. Thomas Aquinas*, available from Liguori Publications at [www.liguori.org](http://www.liguori.org).

♦ **FR. RICHARD WOODS, O.P.** reports that Veritas Publications in Dublin has just released the newly revised edition of *Eckhart's Way*, an exploration of the life, times, and spiritual doctrine of the great German Dominican mystic, Meister Eckhart, just in time for his 750th birthday.

