



DOMINICAN *Central*

NEWS from the PROVINCE OF ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

SUMMER 2004

From the Provincial

DEAR FRIENDS OF
THE FRIARS,



Over the past year the Dominican friars of the Province of St. Albert the Great have rejoiced at the signs of new life that have been taking place among us. Just as the changes we see in a child's life bring about a sense of wonder at the mystery of nature, so the growth that we have been witnessing as a province leads us to marvel at the goodness and grace of God.

Our mission in Bolivia is flourishing as it matures and moves toward greater independence. The two schools sponsored by our province, Aquinas Institute of Theology and Fenwick High School, have also expanded their programs and increased their enrollments and are launching major campaigns to guarantee the significant contributions that they have always made to the church and society. Our theologians, teachers, and writers continue to advance new ideas for which they are receiving scholarly recognition. Our parishes, Newman centers, and preachers are attracting new members to the church and striving for better ways to teach and proclaim the Catholic faith.

This past month alone, we have celebrated as a province four grace-filled signs that remind us how God is providing for our growth and for the future needs of the church. On August 15, nine of our brothers took first vows as Dominicans. A week later, four men took a first step into Dominican life as novices for our province. Over Labor Day

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Novices vow to imitate St. Dominic

AT SECOND vespers on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 11 men made their simple profession of vows at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Denver. Nine men from the Province of St. Albert the Great and two men from the Province of St. Dominic in Canada placed their hands in those of their respective Prior Provincial—who acted as the delegate of the Master of the Order, Fr. Carlos Azpiroz Costa, O.P., the 86th successor of Our Holy Father Dominic—and professed their vows.

By placing their hands in those of the Master's delegate, the novices forged a living link with our founder. Kneeling before their Provincial, the friar novices recited our centuries-old profession formula:

"I, ____, make profession and promise obedience to God, and to Blessed Mary, and to Blessed Dominic, and to you, Brother ____, of the Province of ____, in place of Brother Carlos Azpiroz Costa, Master of the Order of Friars Preachers and his successors, according to the Rule of Blessed Augustine and the Constitutions of



the Friars Preachers, that I will be obedient to you and to your successors for ____ years."

In a ritual gesture of humility, the novices lay prostrate before the Provincial as part of the profession ceremony.

A simple profession

What does it mean to make a simple profession of vows? In the Order of Preachers, simple profession is the culmination of the novitiate (the first year of a friar's formal training). Profession further incorporates a brother into the Order so that we can deepen our discernment of God's will together. It's our first major "green light" that a man might be called to give himself entirely to God and to the church in the Order.

You'll notice in the profession

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Brother John Iffert, O.P. professes simple vows to Fr. Michael Mascari, O.P., Provincial.

formula that the friar novice formally professes only one vow, the vow of obedience. This is distinctive of Dominican life and spirituality. *We promise to remain obedient to God, the church, the Order, and one another by mutually discerning God's will for us as a religious family and as individual friars within the family.*

It is the Holy Spirit himself who speaks to us of God's will through brothers gathered in chapter meetings. Looked at this way, Dominican obedience resembles a perfect triangle with God at one point, the community at another, and the individual brother at the third. We discover God's will inside the triangle, where our voices mix and mingle.

You'll also notice that we promise obedience according to the Rule of Augustine and our Constitutions. Our

practices of simplicity in poverty and chaste intimacy in celibacy are rooted there.

Marching orders

At the end of the profession liturgy, the men made their first formal act of obedience. As they lay on the floor of St. Dominic Church, the prior of the novitiate community reads the *mandamus* for the newly professed friars. The *mandamus* is a brother's "marching orders." It tells a brother where he's to go, when he's to go there, and what he's to do when he gets there. It also instructs the target community to welcome the brother with warm and fraternal charity. In effect, the newly professed's lives took a radical change inside of an hour, from that of a novice to that of an itinerant, simply professed friar!

The Central Province novices left the following day to begin their studies at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, while the men of the Canadian Province moved to Ottawa where they will continue their ministerial formation. The next class of six novices began a retreat to prepare for vestition in the holy habit of St. Dominic and the formal beginning of their novitiate a couple of days after the previous class' exodus to St. Louis and Canada (see page 4 for their stories).

Sisters and Brothers, please continue to pray that our God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—continues to grasp the hearts of women and men so passionately that they'll give everything to serve their sisters and brothers in the church. Pray for vocations! Talk about vocations! Put candidates in touch with us, and we'll do the rest with God's help!

—Bro. Douglas-Adam Greer, O.P.

From the Provincial (continued from page 1)

weekend, two of our brothers made lifelong commitments to the Order through their profession of solemn vows. The next day one of these men was ordained a deacon. For these signs of new life and for all of our blessings, we are grateful to God and to all of you whose prayers, support, and friendship have helped to make them possible.

In Saint Dominic,
Michael Mascari, O.P.
Prior Provincial

THROUGH YOUR DONATIONS AND PRAYERS ...

you make our various ministries possible. We are blessed to have your support!

1. Adopt a preacher in seminary education
2. Fund a *Come & See* Vocation Weekend
3. Support a retired friar
4. Help our Bolivian missions
5. Remember us in your will



Please send your donation today in the envelope enclosed.

Contact:
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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.**

The Apollos Project takes flight

AQUINAS INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY was chosen to receive a \$1.7 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., a private foundation based in Indianapolis, to embark upon a project intended to fundamentally change the way Catholics think.

The initiative, known as the Apollos Project, will connect Aquinas Institute to 35 parishes across the dioceses of Belleville; Springfield, Illinois; Jefferson City; Springfield-Cape Girardeau; and the Archdiocese of St. Louis. These parishes will serve as incubators for a model of ministry in which pastors and professionally trained laypeople form a team to meet the needs of Catholic parishes.

Fr. Charles Bouchard, O.P., president of Aquinas Institute, stated that the grant is another example of how the school responds to the changing circumstances in the Catholic Church. "We're probably more entrepreneurial than most seminaries," he said. "We were among the first schools to accept women religious; we formed part of the first ecumenical consortium in the U.S.; we were the first to offer a doctor of ministry degree in preaching; and we recently graduated our first class with a master's degree in health care mission. Now, we're leading an initiative to establish a new model of parish ministry by preparing

laypeople with the academic and spiritual preparation they need to become effective parish leaders."

Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded Aquinas Institute this grant through its "Making Connections Initiative," which sought proposals that offered ways to build relationships among church-affiliated organizations that would lead to better ministry. The endowment provides more grant funds for religion initiatives than any other foundation in the United States.

In our 2004 Winter Issue we highlighted many of the exciting innovations taking place at Aquinas Institute. Visit their website at: www.ai.edu.



Marcus Watson (from left), Sr. Mary Kay Oosdyke, O.P., and Fr. Charles Bouchard, O.P. (President of A.I.) receive the wonderful news from the Lilly Endowment Inc.

O.P. BOOK REVIEW—PARISH MINISTRY IN A HISPANIC COMMUNITY

St. Pius Parish community used as a model in new book

HISPANICS CONSTITUTE "more than one third of Catholics in the United States" and account for "75 percent of Catholic growth." By the year 2050, "86 percent of American Catholics will be Hispanic," with Mexicans constituting the largest and fastest-growing segment of the Hispanic population in the United States.

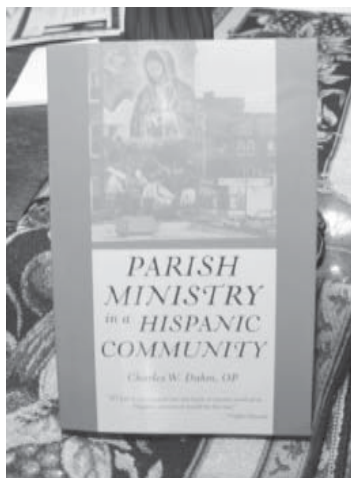
In response, the book *Parish Ministry in a Hispanic Community*, by Fr. Charles W. Dahm, O.P., is built around the model of one urban Hispanic parish, St. Pius V in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago. It details the ways that Hispanics—Mexicans in particular—can be integrated into the church and still retain their unique identity.

The book embraces Mexicans' deep, vibrant religiosity, rooted in their love of native language, music, rich adornment, ritual, and

tradition, and responds to their problems of machismo, loneliness, isolation, discrimination, and marginalization by highlighting a network of parish resources made available to them—from soup kitchens, shelters, and secondhand clothing stores, to parenting, marriage, and family counseling programs, to organizing Comunidades de Base (Christian Base Communities), fiestas (street fairs), and communal celebrations that meld liturgy and culture.

Parish Ministry in a Hispanic Community, available September 1, 2004 from Paulist Press, is a fact-filled, well-considered look at the future face (multicultural and non-white) of the American Catholic Church. It is a must-read.

(This excerpt was reprinted from Paulist Press: www.paulistpress.com.)



Parish Ministry in a Hispanic Community details the ways Hispanics can be integrated into the church and still retain their unique identity.





The experience of the Prenovitiate *In their own words...*

LAST MONTH, these six men began their Dominican Prenovitiate. A Prenovitiate serves as an orientation to religious life in general and the charism of Dominican religious life in particular. Candidates begin immediately to preside at the liturgy of the hours, assume cantor roles, and learn the nuts and bolts of living in community with others. They take classes in Dominican history, spirituality, and the Constitutions, which govern how the Order functions. The Prenovitiate is the threshold to a whole new way of life. Here is their experience thus far:

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



“The preaching has been superb; indeed this is truly the Order of Preachers! Living in community, praying, celebrating Eucharist, hearing the friars’ stories, eating together, and being a part of this family has been so rewarding. I feel I am where God wants me! What a blessing.”

—Jason Calvi, 22

“After visiting St. Pius V Priory, I received a “Thank you for visiting our home” note personally signed by all the friars. I was touched and thought: ‘This is more than a religious organization, it is a family.’ Adjusting to this new way of life is off to a great start because that sense of family I first glimpsed is very much here. The friars



themselves have shown the joys and possibilities of this vocation!”

—Mike Minuth, 28



“Since being here in the prenovitiate I have fallen in love with the four pillars of Dominican life (common life, study, ministry, and common prayer). I have learned that common

life is where virtue is cultivated and preached to our



The Prenovices visit with Br. Douglas, O.P. and Fr. Benedict Ashley, O.P. as they continue to learn about the Dominican traditions.

neighbors. Study helps us gain access and awareness of the needs of the world. Ministry is where charity is manifested through Dominican spirituality. Overall, I have come to discover that the fruits of Dominican preaching reflect the manner of living and prayer lives of the preachers themselves.”

—Kenneth Sama, 28



“After only the first few hints of community, I am beginning to see the tremendous graces God has in store for me; the need to break down barriers, the gentle acknowledgement of someone’s presence, the desire to seek my brothers’ benefit.”

—Steve Vileo, 45

“I have been confirmed in the decision to join the Order by the peacefulness and contentment as well as the hospitality shown by the Dominicans. They are the fruits of their own experience and at the same time they offer reassurance to beginners.”



—Peter Furguele, 50



“The warm welcome and generous hospitality from the community created an immediate sense of ‘belonging’ that made an otherwise daunting prospect entirely enjoyable.”

—Jordan McCambridge, 39

What is our Catholic responsibility in these elections?

WE HAVE HEARD much in the past several months about voting and Catholic responsibility. Bishops have written statements that have been controversial and the source of much discussion. While the national primary season is over, local primaries have just begun, and we have been inundated with flyers, posters, and ads extolling the virtues of various candidates and issues. There are important elections every couple of years, and this is the time of year we might feel overwhelmed by all the politicking. What has confused us even more are the statements of some bishops who have tried to get us to judge candidates based on a couple of so-called “key” issues. This has only helped to confuse many people.

It is important to realize that there is not a perfect candidate, and nobody can tell anyone how to vote. What one local bishop says has very limited focus, because a bishop only has authority in his local diocese. When the bishops met in Denver in June, they issued a statement that acknowledged the differences even among the bishops.

During this primary and election season we do have the right and obligation to vote. But along with this right and obligation, we have the responsibility to study the issues and the candidates. We cannot limit ourselves and

vote based on one issue. We must study all the issues and come up with a choice that is based on our own discernment. It is rare that there is going to be a candidate we agree with on all the issues.

During the time leading up to every presidential election, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issues a packet titled *Faithful Citizenship*. Many parishes and Catholic institutions make this available as a resource for study groups.

Several dioceses are encouraging their parishes to set up Faithful Citizenship focus groups. These can become important ways to discuss candidates and issues. As we move closer to November 2, Election Day, Faithful Citizenship focus groups could be a positive and helpful addition to the life of a parish or Catholic institution.

The USCCB website, www.nccbuscc.org, has several links to Faithful Citizenship resources.

Every election is important. Let us all do what we can to vote smart and wise.

—Fr. Dennis Woerter, O.P.
denop@juno.com

We must study all the issues and come up with a choice that is based on our own discernment.

“We must see ourselves . . . as the Sacred Preaching”

FIVE YEARS AGO at the 1999 Provincial Chapter, we the friars of the Province of St. Albert the Great said this about ourselves:

“Both the tradition of the Order of Preachers and the experience of our own Province urge us to continue to develop the understanding and the *praxis* of the Sacred Preaching. Saint Dominic referred to himself and his small group of followers as ‘The Preaching of Jesus Christ’ and the *sacra praedicatio* [the Sacred Preaching]. Nine years ago we first articulated our provincial Vision Statement in which we proclaimed, ‘We must see ourselves, collectively and individually as the Sacred Preaching. . . . This is a vision that needs rebirth among us today.’

“This process of rebirth has begun among us at the same time as the church is crying out for better preaching, for better prepared preachers, for a dynamic witness and testimony to the Sacred Word made incarnate in our own

words. We have discovered that the Sacred Preaching is not something that we do, but it is something that we are. It is our identity, and each one of our communities can

truly say, ‘We are the Sacred Preaching.’ It is an identity which embraces all of life, in and out of the pulpit and in each and every one of our ministries.”

The Word of God is not merely ink on paper or even a good idea. *The Word of God takes flesh in the body of Christ*—and we are that body, the Sacred Preaching. We are called by God to come together in communities of faith to school ourselves in the *praxis* (the meaning and practice) of the Word of God. In our communities of faith—through worship, education, and the

promotion of justice and peace—we are the Preaching of Jesus Christ.

—Fr. Greg Heille, O.P.
heilleg@slu.edu

“We have discovered that the Sacred Preaching is not something that we do, but it is something that we are. It is our identity.”





Dominican ethicists honored

THREE DOMINICAN priests were among six recipients honored recently at the 89th Catholic Health Association Assembly held in Chicago. Fr. Benedict Ashley, O.P. and Fr. Kevin O'Rourke, O.P. from the Central Province and Fr. Albert Moraczewski, O.P.

from the Southern Province received a Lifetime Achievement Award in bioethics certificate and medal commemorating their accomplishments in the health care field. They were "Recognized together as a significantly influential generation of 20th century American Catholic ethicists, . . . recognized for his contribution to the Catholic health ministry through scholarship, guidance, and faith."

Frs. Benedict Ashley and Kevin O'Rourke have collaborated on two major printed works on bioethics. The first, a research volume called *Health Care Ethics: A Theological Analysis* is now in its fourth edition. They are currently working on the fifth edition. The second college text book is called *Ethics of Health Care: An Introductory Textbook, Third Edition* (both published by Georgetown University Press).

Their collaboration initiated in the mid-1960s and continues to deepen as the years go by. They even critique



Fr. Benedict Ashley, O.P. (top photo) and Fr. Kevin O'Rourke, O.P. (bottom photo) receive their awards.



The Catholic Health Association medal

each other's work. When people ask how such different personalities continue to collaborate after so many years, Fr. Kevin replies, "It is due to Benedict's intelligence and patience and my desire to get the job done!"

In addition to writing texts, both of these men have served on numerous boards and commissions. Fr. Benedict was a consultant for the U.S. Bishops Conference, and Fr. Kevin served on the Vatican Health Care Commission. They have also received numerous awards for their accomplishments. Fr. Benedict was the recipient of the Thomas Linacre Award from the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds and the "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" medal conferred by Pope John Paul II, while Fr. Kevin was bestowed the Role of Law Award from the Canon Law Society of America and the Sister Mary Concilia Moran, RSM Award also from the Catholic Health Association.

Teaching outside the classroom

FOUR FORMER STUDENTS of Rev. Jon Alexander, O.P., associated professor of history, set a precedent for scholarly historical research by taking part in the first ever undergraduate panel in a session at the National Conference of the Organization of American Historians in Boston. In addition to this opportunity, they were honored by the presence of Rhode Island Supreme Court Chief Justice Frank Williams, an authority on Abraham Lincoln, who presided over the sessions.

The students presented papers dealing with their views of 19th-century U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Marshall

in a session titled "A Revolution in American Views of Chief Justice John Marshall: An Experiment in Teaching Historical Research to Undergraduates."

Fr. Alexander, who proposed the idea to the Organization of American Historians, said the papers the students presented were based on papers they had written for his "Readings in American Legal History" seminar at Providence College. The student research has demonstrated that Chief Justice Marshall was not appreciated as a jurist until the late 19th century.

Reprinted courtesy of Providence Digest by Alice Horvath.

DevelOPment News

LAST JUNE, the friars asked me to take on a new ministry for the good of the Province. The ministry of development is always a challenge and one that is not always understood. At the core of development activities is a deep sense of gratitude. People support the life and works of the friars because they have been blessed by them in one way or another.

One question that has always been asked is: Why have someone devote all their efforts to encourage people to show their thanks? There is a story in the life of Jesus that might help to answer this question. Once there were 10 men who were lepers and Jesus cured them, but only one of the 10 came back to thank Him (Luke 17:11-19). The ministry of development is simply to help people say thank you to God and the Dominicans for gifts received through their efforts.

I entered the Dominican Order in 1961, coming to Chicago from my home in New Orleans. During the 43 years that I have been a Dominican Brother, one word seems to summarize my experience: that word is *adventure*. After my initial formation, I have been involved in education, social ministry, and administration. Most recently, I was the academic dean at Saint John Vianney College Seminary in Miami. It is the only bilingual seminary in the United States. I also helped found Catholic Charities Legal Services to help immigrants get quality legal services in their efforts to be part of this country.

Teaching is a great love of mine. Few works give a person the opportunity to influence the values of another person as much as education. It is a great joy to see young people grow in their faith because you have given them the knowledge they need to form themselves as good Christians. Social ministry reminds us that our Lord still suffers among the least. These two activities made my years in Miami very happy ones.

Before I went to Florida, I served the Dominican Order internationally as the assistant to the Master General for Apostolic Life. From 1983 until 1992, I lived in Rome and helped the Master of the Order in his universal ministry. I was blessed to see the end of Communism in Eastern Europe and witness the rebirth of the church after many years of suffering. I learned what a great price many Catholics pay to be faithful and how blessed I am to live in a place where religious freedom is respected.

Because I have experienced the great many gifts that Saint Dominic gave to the church in his preaching Order, I am determined to work harder to ensure that these good works continue. It is my hope to invite those who have been blessed by our preaching to join us in our development efforts and to continue the preaching and to discover new ways to communicate God's Word in the future.



In the months ahead, you will be hearing from me about these concrete hopes. I hope we can find ways to work together to bring these many dreams to reality.

—*Brother Edward van Merrienboer, O.P.*
Vicar for Mission Development

I invite those who have been blessed by our preaching to join us in our development efforts.

Congratulations . . .

🏆 . . . to **FR. BRIAN WALKER, O.P.**, recipient of the Augustus Tolton Award for the Archdiocese of Chicago. This is an award that reflects the ideals and tireless effort of the first nationally recognized African American priest, Fr. Augustus Tolton, who worked in Chicago.

🏆 . . . to **BR. EDWARD VAN MERRIENBOER, O.P.**, who received an Outstanding Faculty Award from the University of San Francisco for outstanding teaching.

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Meet us on the internet at:
www.op.org/domcentral

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DOMINICAN DOINGS

FR. THOMAS O'MEARA, O.P. gave an address on "Spirit and Service" at the joint conferences of the Kansas City Conference on Catholic Culture and the National Association of Lay ministry. He also gave a seminar on his book, *Enrich Przywara, S.J.: His Theology and His World*, at the annual convention of the Catholic Theological Society of America.

BR. JOSEPH KILIKEVICE, O.P. gave a presentation at the fourth international Parliament of the World's Religion in Barcelona, Spain, where he also led a session of morning observances.

FR. JOSE SANTIAGO, O.P. taught a graduate course at St. Mary's University in Winona, Minn. on the Theology of Ministry. He also coordinated two discussions on Archbishop Harry Flynn's pastoral on racism with the Hispanic Ministry Leadership Team.

FRIARS IN PRINT

BR. DOUGLAS-ADAM GREER, O.P., authored an article in *Horizon Magazine* titled "Celibate Chastity: Sacrifice Because of the Kingdom of Heaven" in the July 2004 issue.

FR. PAUL PHILIBERT, O.P., former prior of St. Dominic's in St. Louis, wrote a book called *Stewards of God's Mysteries—Priestly Spirituality in a Changing Church*, available from Liturgical Press.

FR. CHARLES DAHM, O.P. wrote *Parish Ministry in a Hispanic Community*. The book is available from Paulist Press.

IN MEMORIAM



Father Charles Michael Santoro, O.P.
BORN: June 5, 1944
PROFESSED: August 16, 1965
ORDAINED: May 22, 1971
BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE: August 3, 2004

Father James Bonaventure Zusy, O.P.
BORN: July 8, 1932
PROFESSED: August 31, 1953
ORDAINED: May 23, 1959
BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE: July 3, 2004



For further information on these and other brothers who have died, go to:
www.op.org/domcentral/people/inmemoriam

