



Order of Preachers

DOMINICAN *Central*

NEWS from the PROVINCE OF ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

SPRING 2006

From the Provincial

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE FRIARS,



As Dominican friars, we are profoundly aware that any success we have in our mission cannot take place without the grace of God and the exceptional gifts of our brothers. Whether we are teaching theology at Aquinas Institute or at Fenwick High School, working with college students at one of our university ministries, or preaching in one of our parishes, each of us recognizes that we are little more than Our Lord's instruments, tools through whom he preaches, teaches, and offers pastoral care to all of those who seek him. Yet, for an instrument to do a good job, even if it is wielded by God himself, it must be well made and finely crafted. Therefore, every Dominican friar must receive the kind of formation that will make him a strong, solid, and supple instrument, responsive to God and to his lifegiving grace.

Over a period of seven years from the moment that a candidate first meets our vocation director until he is ordained a priest or otherwise concludes his formation, this molding of a Dominican vocation begins to take shape. Our brothers are carefully screened by the vocation director and then tested as to the authenticity of their call from God and their suitability for religious life. This discernment continues in the novitiate where a Dominican vocation not only takes root but begins to flourish. Here the novice not only becomes acquainted with the elements

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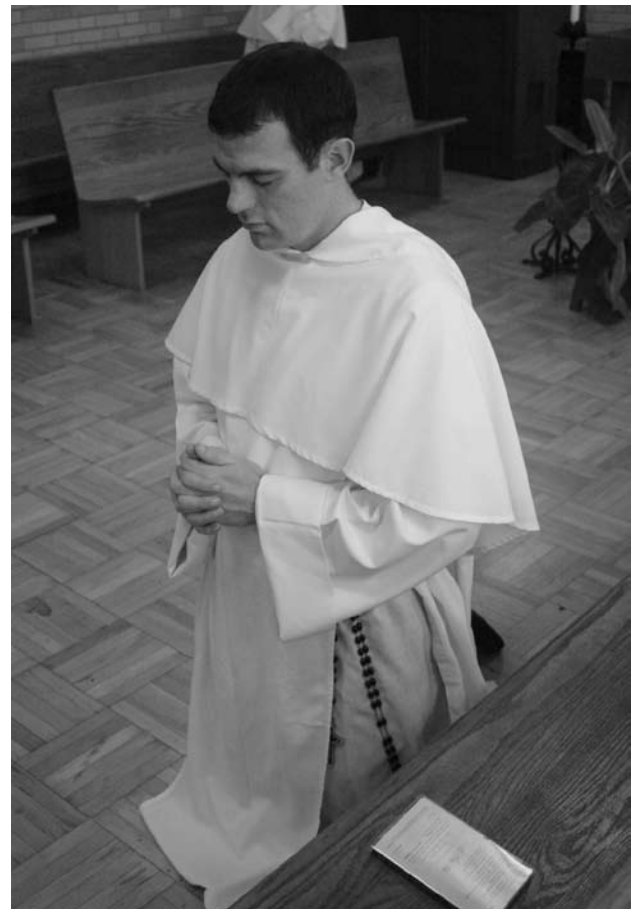
A look at formation life in the Province of St. Albert the Great

EVERYONE KNOWS that novices are "new ones" or "beginners" in religious life, but just what does a Dominican novice do? One of the most frequently asked questions of us out here in Denver is, "But if you aren't studying, then just what are you up to?" We are, of course, studying, but not just that. Novices are up to being Dominicans, to living the life and discerning whether or not it fits for them, and to learning more about themselves, their faith, and their place in the world.

The novitiate is a year-long period of probation offered by the Church and the Order for the novice "to experience our customs" and for the community "to test your ways." For the Dominican novice, this means a wholesale involvement in the life of a friar preacher, and especially formation in what are called the four "pillars" or primary values of the Order: prayer, community, study, and ministry. After a year of testing, the novices profess vows and so are incorporated into the Order.

A way of life

Prayer is at the center of the novitiate and serves as the foundation of the rest of our life. Together we sing daily Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline, as well as Mass and the Office of Readings. Thursdays are a special day in the novitiate, a "desert day," devoted exclusively to contemplation by way of *lectio divina*,



scripture sharing, communal rosary, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and simply quiet time spent with the Lord. Brothers also frequently visit neighboring parishes and even houses of worship of other faiths and denominations.

Br. Daniel in the novitiate chapel.

Study in the novitiate, while not cred-

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Br. Dominic (pictured second from left in the front row) among his fellow novices and novice master.

ited, is no less important. The novices' study is geared primarily to the study of the Order, its history, spirituality, biographies of our saints and notables, and especially of our Rule and Constitutions. Study for the Dominican is considered

a "pillar" because it is not simply a means to an end such as ordination or profession. Rather, study is a way of life, for "If faith is but another way of knowing, then study is but another way of praying."

The Dominicans thrust their novices into ministry from the get-go. Each Wednesday the novices spend time "out of the house" in active ministries at grade schools and nursing homes, homeless shelters and hospices. Novices are also frequently invited to high schools and youth groups to give vocations talks, are active in liturgical ministries and religious education at St. Dominic's parish in Denver, and even make appearances at the occasional "Theology on Tap."

Rubbing elbows

The community of brothers "of one heart and one mind on the way to God" acts as the solid ground for the rest of Dominican life. Novices intentionally live close together because by rubbing and sometimes throwing elbows with each other the brothers force each other to grow. Challenges and

disagreements in the community are met with a mind to our ultimate goal as a community: preaching and the salvation of souls. To paraphrase a line from the movie *As Good as It Gets*, "We make each other want to be better men."

Prayer, community, study, and ministry are the identifying and constitutive elements of our life, but preaching is who we are. Our very lives speak of something different, something other-than and beyond ourselves. By living the pillars and growing together, the novices really share in the life and works of the Order, so that they too can pray with honesty "that our lives together might be a joyful witness, creating a desire in others to join the sacred preaching."

—Br. Dominic McManus
Novice

From the Provincial (continued from page 1)

of Dominican life, but he takes on a new identity as a man of prayer, a person committed to study, zealous for God's word, and intent on forming lasting bonds of brotherhood with his fellow friars through a life of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

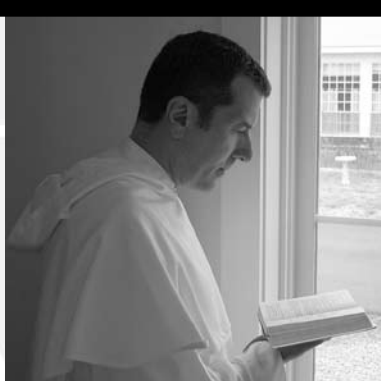
This identity comes to its fullness over the course of the young friar's formation in the studentate. The obvious focus of these years is upon study, especially the study of philosophy and theology. A student brother not only comes to grasp the richness of our Catholic and Dominican tradition but also develops the skills to communicate this to others through his preaching and pastoral care. At the same time, he continues to cultivate a spirit of prayer, a love of ministry, and a vowed life shared in common with his brothers.

In all of this, the goal is to form men who have genuine integrity, who are committed to Christ and accountable to the people of God, and who have acquired the virtues needed to both sustain their own vocations as Dominican friars and to nourish the minds and hearts of the people whom they serve. As well-made instruments of God's holy Word, Dominican friars cannot help but carry out their mission of bringing others to Our Lord Jesus Christ, whom they have come to know personally and have come passionately to love.

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

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Fifth-year student Br. Patrick Baikauskas prepares for his solemn vows. Read his story on page 7.



Please send your donation today in the envelope enclosed.

Contact: Dominican Central,
Director, Mission Advancement
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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 formation process continues

From student brother to solemnly professed member or Dominican Priest

EVERYONE KNOWS that it takes a significant commitment of time and effort and resources to get children from infancy to adulthood. Mothers and fathers have a lot to attend to: the basics of food and shelter and clothing, the necessities of education and emotional support, the requirements of sharing faith, hope, and love. In this process, there are signs that progress is being made: a first word is spoken, a first step is taken, a first day of school is successfully negotiated, and eventually a first paycheck is cashed.

Likewise, to get a newly professed Dominican brother to full-time ministry or ordination to the priesthood is a significant undertaking. It is something that is central to the life of every Dominican province: The future life of the Order depends upon it. And, just as in parenting, it is an aspect of Dominican life that requires a great deal of time, effort, and resources—as well as the help (and prayers) of many people. We call this process “initial formation.” What follows is a sketch of the fundamentals of this process.

After the novitiate and the profession of temporary vows, the student brother moves to Saint Louis and takes up residence at Saint Dominic Priory. He enrolls in Aquinas Institute of Theology (a graduate school sponsored by the Province of Saint Albert the Great) and begins his studies for ministry. All of the student brothers work toward the Master of Divinity degree (the degree usually required for ordination to the priesthood); those who are likely to do doctoral studies in the future are also encouraged to do the Master of Arts in Theology at Aquinas Institute.

The Master of Divinity degree provides the student brother with a comprehensive exposure to the Catholic intellectual tradition as well as a firm grounding in the skills required for pastoral ministry in the Church. He will study Scripture, morality, Church history, spirituality, liturgy, canon law as well as preaching, pastoral counseling, and

spiritual direction. As a Dominican, he will also work toward a certificate in Thomistic studies—a program designed to ground him in the thought of Saint Thomas Aquinas.

There is a lot more to the life of the student brother than academics alone. He is living the life of a vowed religious: praying daily with his brothers in community the psalms of morning and evening prayer, listening to the Lord

in his private prayer, sharing in community celebrations, and dedicating several hours each week to a ministry in the Saint Louis area. (Ministry opportunities include working with campus ministry programs, hospital chaplaincies, R.C.I.A. programs, jail ministry, and part-time teaching.) Under the guidance of the Student Master, he also meets with his fellow student brothers at least once a month to discuss issues pertaining to Dominican life and spirituality and the living of the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

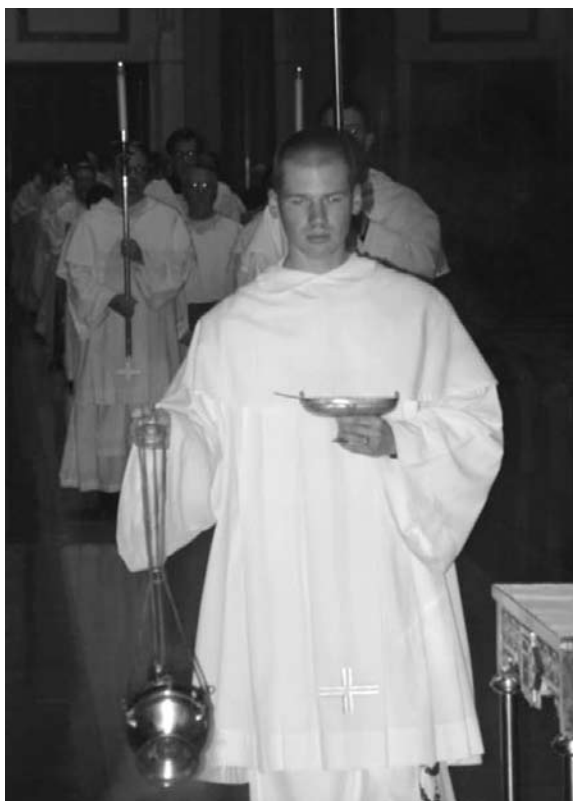
Initial formation—moving from being a first-year student brother to a brother in full-time ministry or ordained priest—takes at least six years. It involves many people

It is a blessing to see the signs that “formation” is working in the life of a brother.

along the way: the Province’s

benefactors, the professors at Aquinas Institute, the supervisors of the brothers’ ministries, and their own families and friends. It is a blessing to see the signs that “formation” is working in the life of a brother: hearing him preach for the first time at an evening prayer service, seeing his first research paper in theology, hearing his reflections on his first day at a ministry site, and eventually witnessing him take up full-time ministry in the Church as a solemnly professed brother or ordained Dominican priest.

—Fr. Richard Peddicord, O.P.
Master of Students



Student Brother Jonah Lewis leads the procession ceremony at the recent ordinations held at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis.



NOTE

THE NEXT
Come &
See is
Nov. 10-
12,
2006 in
St. Louis.

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The formal early steps: The Admissions Board

THE ADMISSIONS BOARD is something of a culmination of a process that begins with the very first stirrings that initiate discernment. Through my monthly letters as the Director for the Society of Vocational Support or through this quarterly column, I have written about the discernment, screening, and application process required to enter the Order of Preachers. Yet, people often ask me: How does the actual Admissions Board weekend work once all the discernment and paperwork has been completed? What is actually involved in the face-to-face interview and final decision-making process?

The four men who make up the voting membership of the Admissions Board are representatives of the Dominican Province. This is the group that interviews and votes on applicants for entrance into our novitiate each year. The Provincial or his designated Vicar must then receive the Board's vote and officially accept the Board's decision before it is final. The Provincial has the final say. The Promoter of Vocations and the Director of Novices are members of the Board, but they do not vote on the applicants, although the Novice Master does interview the candidates.

The length of the Admissions Board depends on the

number of applicants; there are usually no more than five or six candidates before the board. While the whole weekend is set aside for the interviews, the process only takes as long as the members need to feel confident of their individual decision to vote either "yes" to entering the novitiate, "no," or "not this year." Each applicant for the Order meets with two different teams of two friars for an hour. Then they meet with the Novice Master for the same length of time. Once the applicants are all interviewed, the Board sequesters itself to thoroughly discuss, evaluate, and decide the merit of each application for admission into the novitiate. Applicants are then told of the final decision before they leave the weekend.

In truth, reaching an Admissions Board begins long before the official weekend of interviews. It starts with the creative vocation promotion efforts of our brothers at ministry sites such as the one Fr. Hayek, O.P. enthusiastically shares below.

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



FROM THE PROMOTER OF VOCATIONS

Tithings help support our Dominican novices

THE DIOCESE of Colorado Springs insists that all of their member parishes tithe to charity. On occasion, I hear a parishioner here at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Castle Rock, Colorado ask why we can't just keep the money for our own pressing needs. With a major building project and campaign about to begin here, our needs are great. However, I remind them that as Catholics we need to think beyond our own small world.

With this in mind, I've decided to make vocations one of our main concerns. Our parish, where Fr. George Reynolds, O.P. and I work, was founded in 1888. Since that time, no one has ever entered the seminary or religious life. (I'm working on changing that!) In the meantime, I have made the Colorado Dominican Vocation Foundation, a group of people who raise money to support our own Dominican novices, a recipient of four of our parish tithes each year. Our Knights of Columbus Council also participates in supporting religious vocations. This

year they awarded four of our Dominican novices a check for \$500 each for their support.

*As Catholics we
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Brs. Dominic, Shane, and Daniel receive generous contributions from the Knights of Columbus.

This is another form of raising vocation awareness and support among our parishioners. The Knights of Columbus are also taking a more active role in encouraging the youth of the parish to consider a religious vocation. Perhaps in the future we will be able to not only fund prospective novices, but have one come from our own parish!

—Fr. Herb C. Hayek, O.P.

All of you are one

IMMIGRATION CONTINUES to be an issue that is dividing our country. Even on the local level, there have been marches and rallies in support (and against) immigration. Legislators have attempted to pass laws aimed at severely limiting immigrant rights, and many people want to just send undocumented immigrants home. Well, it is not that easy, and these reactions result from fear and paranoia.

As Dominicans, we are called to study the issues and to reflect on them. Nothing fruitful gets done without dialogue and reflection. We must pray that immigration reform happens in such a way that respects the dignity of every immigrant—including the undocumented.

The United States Catholic Bishops immigration reform initiative, *Justice for Immigrants*, is based on five principles of Catholic social teaching:

1. Persons have the right to find opportunities in their homeland.
2. Persons have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families.
3. Sovereign nations have a right to control their borders.

4. Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection.

5. The human rights and the human dignity of undocumented migrants should be respected.

Everyone is special in the eyes of God. Beginning with the teachings of Jesus, the church has consistently upheld the dignity of every human being. And from the very first document of Catholic social teaching (*Rerum novarum*, 1891), the popes have upheld the rights of individuals to work in order to survive and support their families, even if this means traveling elsewhere to find that work.

Let us continue this dialogue and reflection. “Dialogue leads to a recognition of diversity and opens the mind to the mutual acceptance and genuine collaboration demanded by the human family’s basic vocation to unity” (John Paul II, World Day for Peace Message, January 1, 2001).

For more information: www.justice-forimmigrants.org.

—Fr. Dennis Woertex, O.P.
denop2003@yahoo.com



Beginning with the teachings of Jesus, the church has consistently upheld the dignity of every human being.

FROM THE PROMOTER OF PREACHING

From Blackfriars Oxford

THANKS TO THE BENEFACTORS of the Province and Aquinas Institute of Theology, I am spending six months of my current sabbatical year as a visiting fellow at Oxford University in residence with the Dominicans at historic Blackfriars. Blackfriars was the first Dominican house in England—founded in 1221, the year of Saint Dominic’s death, as an oratory and school under the patronage of Saint Edward the Confessor with a ministry directed toward Oxford’s significant Jewish community. In 1244, King Henry III gave property at the site of the present Town Hall for a priory and for a hostel for Jewish converts. By 1305 there were 96 Oxford Dominicans.

Prior to the founding of Balliol, University, and Merton—the first colleges of what would become the University—in the 1250s and 1260s, Oxford students were put up in boarding houses and met informally with tutors in local taverns. As the University took shape, Blackfriars was involved from the beginning.

In 1536-39, at the time of the English reformation of King Henry VIII, the property of all religious orders in England was confiscated. With the dis-establishment of Blackfriars, the Dominicans were absent from Oxford for nearly 400 years. And then, as reported in Richard Tames’ *A Traveller’s History of Oxford*: “The Dominicans returned through the extraordinary efforts of Father Bede Jarrett [the

35-year-old provincial of England], who enlisted a string of supporters ranging from wealthy Americans like Mrs. Jefferson Tytus to King Alonso III of Spain and Pope Benedict XV and was thus able to buy 62-64 St. Giles and build a chapel next to it. Blackfriars, the Priory of the Holy Spirit, opened in 1929 but was not completed until 1954.”

The present Blackfriars community numbers 25 (including past Master of the Order Timothy Radcliffe), with student friars from England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium, Poland, Granada, and Trinidad and senior friars from England, Scotland, Ireland, Poland, South Africa, and Australia. Blackfriars is affiliated with Oxford University, the University of Wales, and the Angelicum in Rome. Undergraduates from a number of American colleges also come to Blackfriars Hall for a year as Oxford University students.

The Province of England, which founded the American Province of St. Joseph 200 years ago, is in turn the Province of St. Albert the Great’s “grandbrother” province. English Dominican life is thriving and happy. I am grateful for the privilege of this time away from teaching to read and write in the fields of homiletics and practical theology and to experience the rich international hospitality of the English Dominicans.

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





Music in the Eternal City: An unbelievable moment

DURING EASTER WEEK I was privileged to travel to Rome to accompany two choirs with whom I have been associated for almost 25 years. The Master Singers of Archmere Academy (a high school very similar to our own Fenwick High School) and the Choir of the Holy Child, both from Wilmington, Delaware, form the heart of music ministry within the Diocese of Wilmington. I was the Diocesan Director of Music in Wilmington for several years before joining the Dominicans.

The trip afforded me the experience of bringing the Sacred Preaching of Christ to so many through the wonderful grace of music.

We had given a “Farewell Concert” on Palm Sunday the week before, so we were ready to sing when we landed in Rome. The first event was Mass at Saint Peter’s Basilica on April 18, which marked the 500th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the Basilica. The Holy Father was present for the Mass as well as more than 2,000 people!

The following morning, the first anniversary of the election of our new Pope, we gathered in Saint Peter’s Square for the Wednesday Morning Audience with the Pope. The Master Singers and Holy Child Choir were chosen to be the choirs that would greet the Holy Father on this auspicious occasion. After the greeting by the Holy Father, the choirs were introduced. We stood and sang the words that are so evident when in Rome: “Tu es Petrus . . . You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.” After the audience we were introduced to the Holy Father. It was one of those



Fr. Jordan Kelly, O.P. accompanies the Master Singers of Archmere Academy and the Choir of the Holy Child on their recent trip to Rome, Italy.

unbelievable moments in life!

From Rome we were off to Orvieto, Florence, Trevi, and Assisi before returning to Rome. It was in Orvieto that our brother Saint Thomas Aquinas wrote his magnificent *Mass and Divine Office of the Blessed Sacrament*. The story of the writing of these great texts is portrayed in a wonderful painting found in the Eucharistic Chapel of the Cathedral. The choir planned to perform an arrangement of Thomas’ *Adoro Te Devote*, written while Saint Thomas was in Orvieto. I brought the choirs together, showed them the painting, and we sang the piece. The townspeople gathered to hear us, and in that gracious Italian style we became the greatest and best choir they had ever heard!

In Florence, we sang in the Church of San Marco and toured the museum that has many of the frescos of Fra Angelico (another Dominican!). From Florence we were off to Assisi, where we sang in the Basilica of Saint Francis. It was wonderful to see the reaction of the students to these sacred places and to hear their magnificent voices ring through these extraordinary churches.

On our final night in Rome, we gave a standing-room-only concert in the Jesuit Church of the Gesu. It was another memorable experience for everyone. The entire trip was a great privilege, and it afforded me the experience of bringing the Sacred Preaching of Christ to so many through the wonderful grace of music.



The choirs held their audiences captive to their wonderful singing in Rome, Orvieto, Florence, Trevi, and Assisi. Here they are pictured at their concert at the Jesuit Church of the Gesu.

—Fr. Jordan Kelly, O.P.

My spiritual journey continues

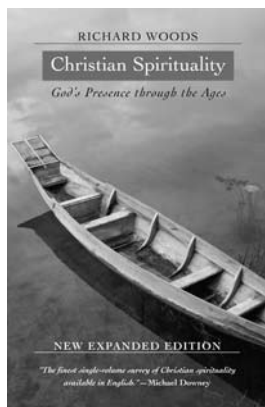
SIX YEARS AGO I had my family over to my house to tell them of my decision to become a priest. I expected that they would all be more than a little surprised. My dad was normally the stoic, quieter one of the family. On this day he was the first to speak. He said, "Son, two years ago when I was at Northwestern University Hospital, I had this image of you walking into my room—as a priest. From that moment until now, I have been waiting for you to make this announcement."

It is at this point in my telling of this story that my voice usually cracks. In the intervening six years I have thought of that day often and have drawn on it for the strength to persevere in my vocation on days when it has been difficult. My dad has left this life for the next and maybe it is his intercession that has helped more than anything.

I know that God spoke to me that day through my dad and He continues to speak to me through the men and women I am blessed to call brother and sister and friend. There have been beautiful, grace-filled moments during the past six years, and yes, there have been difficult times as well. Yet, through it all, I have come to believe, slowly but inexorably, that this is where our good and gracious God has called me to be. It has only required that I listen to the voices of God in my life. I'll be taking the next step on my journey when I profess solemn vows alongside my Dominican brother, Kevin Stephens, O.P., on June 14, 2006 in Chicago.

—Br. Patrick Baikauskas, O.P.
Student Brother

Dominican book review



Christian Spirituality: God's Presence through the Ages is in its third and now completely revised edition with a new concluding chapter among other additions. Now published by Orbis Books in New York, it was first published by the Thomas More Press in 1989. Widely used as a textbook for adult education and college-level courses, it was greeted in its first incarnation as

"The finest single-volume survey of Christian spirituality available in English" (Michael Downey). *Publisher's Weekly* hailed it as "Complete enough to use as a textbook and graceful enough to attract the general reader."

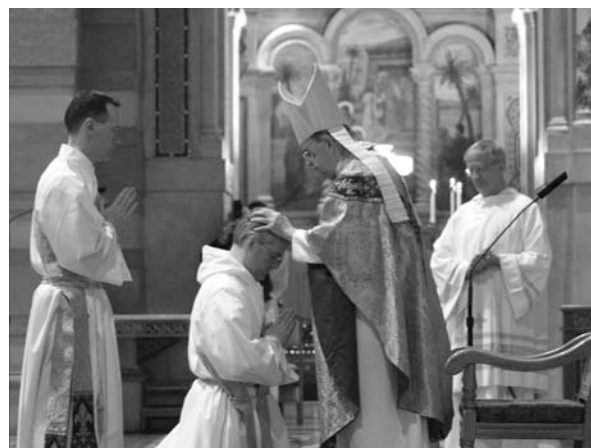
A perfect beginning for Mother's Day

ON SUNDAY, May 14, 2006, when most families were celebrating Mother's Day, our Dominican family was celebrating the priestly ordinations of Fr. Dominic Holtz, O.P. and Fr. Cedrik Starbuck, O.P.

The Most Reverend Thomas C. Kelly, Archbishop of Louisville, KY served as the ordaining prelate during this joyous ceremony held at the Cathedral Basilica in St. Louis. Among the many friends, family, and fellow Dominicans gathered were both Mrs. Starbuck and Mrs. Holtz, mothers of the two newly ordained priests.

It was moving to see Fr. Dominic Holtz lower himself to the floor and stretch out his arms alongside Fr. Cedrik Starbuck as Br. Michail Ford sang the Litany of the Saints in a thunderous voice. It was also a switch in roles of sorts as the then Brother Dominic Holtz was usually called upon to lead the Litany of Saints for others who were to be ordained.

As the ceremony came to a close, the newest priests in the Order sought out their mothers and gave them one of their first blessings as priests. Both Mrs. Holtz and Mrs. Starbuck had to agree that for them this was the most moving and memorable Mother's Day ever!



Archbishop Kelly, O.P. lays his hands on Dominic Holtz, O.P. as Cedrik Starbuck, O.P. awaits his turn during their ordination Mass in St. Louis.

DOMINICAN *Central* newsletter is a publication of the Dominican Province of St. Albert the Great (Central Dominican Province, U.S.A.).

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DOMINICANS





DOMINICAN DOINGS

✦ **FR. BRENDAN CURRAN, O.P.** led a preaching and worship service on immigration called “Strangers No Longer,” while **FR. JAMES MARCHIONDA, O.P.** and **SR. ANNE WILLITS, O.P.** presented “Giving Voice to Justice.” Both conferences were part of the Worship and Justice Series at Siena Center of Dominican University.

✦ **FR. RICHARD WOODS, O.P.** spoke on “Following the Wayless Way: The Spirituality of Meister Eckhart” at St. Chrysostom’s Episcopal Church in Chicago. He also participated in two panels, the first discussing the contributions of Ray Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451* as part of the “Two Villages, One Book” festival sponsored by Oak Park and River Forest Public Libraries and then hosted and spoke at a panel on “The Relation between Science Fiction and Religion,” with Jody Lynn Nye and Dr. Tim Weldon from St. Francis University as part of the same festival.



✦ **FR. MICHAEL MASCARI, O.P.**, Provincial, helped celebrate the 100th anniversary of perpetual adoration of the Dominican nuns at Farmington Hills. Here he is pictured alongside Deacon Don and Fr. Marty McCormick, O.P. (see photo at left).

✦ The Master of the Order appointed **FR. EDWARD RUANE, O.P.** as his Assistant for North America. Fr. Ed replaces **FR. JERRY STOOKEY, O.P.**, also from our Province.

✦ The Board of Trustees of Fenwick High School has elected **FR. DEPORRES DURHAM, O.P.** as the next president of Fenwick H.S. Fr. Durham replaces **FR. RICHARD LAPATA, O.P.**, previous President and member of our Province.

FRIARS IN PRINT

✦ **FR. BENEDICT ASHLEY, O.P.** wrote a book called *The Way toward Wisdom, An Interdisciplinary and Intercultural Introduction to Metaphysics* (Notre Dame Press, 2006).

✦ A chapter from **FR. RICHARD WOOD**’s book *Eckhart’s Way*, “Time’s Verdict,” was included in the new volume of *Classical and*

Medieval Literature Criticism, Jelena Kristovic, ed., Vol. 80 (Farmington Hills, MI: Thomason-Gale, 2006): 236-44.

✦ **FR. ANDREW CARL WISDOM, O.P.** authored the cover article for *Preach Magazine* (May-June 2006) titled, “Multigenerational Preaching, What the Painter Can Teach the Preacher.”

