

CHALLENGE

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 2

AUTUMN 2003

DOMINICAN CALL TO ACTION 2003-2006 from the North American Promoters of Justice, Peace, and Care of Creation

Creation is in crisis. Earth is crying out for justice, for making right the relationships among all creatures, for an honoring of the covenant that God made with Earth in Genesis thus restoring the integrity of creation: "And God said to Noah, I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the Earth...This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all mortal creatures that are on Earth." (Gn 9:13,17) We hear Earth's cry in oppressed peoples, in poisoned soils and rivers and airways, in plant and animal creatures facing extinction. We stand in solidarity with millions of our sisters and brothers around the world who have endorsed the Earth Charter, whose principles we also espouse. "God looked at everything that was made and found it very good." (Gn 1:31)

*As followers of Dominic, we stand in the tradition of Albert and Thomas, Eckhart and Catherine. We embrace all of creation as imbued with God's goodness. Even more, we proclaim the sacredness of all life, believing it is the manifestation of God's divine love. As our brother Thomas tells us, "All creatures have within them a trace of the Trinity; within all creation there resides an image of God." As Dominicans, we challenge the systems that dominate and oppress our world. We are **Preachers**, who must speak a Truth that liberates all. In our **Study**, we must integrate the issues facing us in order to offer the world an understanding of the interrelatedness of all creation. We must be faithful to **Prayer**, which sustains the world's hope. And in our **Communities**, we must model a lifestyle that promotes an equitable, mutually enhancing life for the entire community of creation.*

*In this spirit, we invite the response of all Dominicans to this Call to Action 2003-2006.
(turn to page 4)*

LIGHT AS SENTINEL

by Ruth Kummer, OP, Dominican Laity Provincial President

Light as sentinel is one who watches and guards against the approach of danger or enemies. The question becomes who or what is the approaching danger or enemy.

The recent fad of lighthouses as trinkets and souvenirs risks between taking the heart and soul from darkness of a mariner in distress at sea. Since lighthouses have been converted in general to sterile electronic

signals, an old tradition has disappeared. The regal majesty of the lighthouse no longer has the welcome of another human while in distress at sea. Again, as long as the light shines, the question of where is the humanity that rescues the mariner remains.

In addition in a twinkle of time, a large portion of our country was in darkness—a darkness that precipitated (turn to page 8)

FAMILY HELPING FAMILY FUND UPDATE by Cynthia Ricard, OP, PhD, St. Louis, MO Queen of the Holy Rosary Chapter

Our goal for the Family Helping Family Fund is \$5000. The total received to date is \$1,565 or by province: Central - \$800; Eastern - \$100; Western - \$665; and Southern - 0? Please make donation checks payable to: "St. Dominic Mission Society; Iraqi Laity." (Donations have to say "laity" or money will go into a general fund.)

Mail contributions to: Dominican Laity Iraq Project
St. Dominic Priory
3601 Lindell Blvd.
Saint Louis, MO 63108-3393

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- www.op.org/oplaity
- Send dues, Fund Drive contributions, Meeting Report Forms, Challenge articles, and non-member newsletter subscription requests (\$10 yearly) to: Dominican Laity Office P. O. Box 085451 Racine, WI 53408-5451
- Send supply orders, Dominican Laity information requests and questions for the President to: Mrs. Ruth Kummer, OP 3904 Golfside Road Ypsilanti, MI 48197-8616
- **Our Mission:** Called to a deeper relationship of love and service to God, we are members of the Dominican Order, who commit to live the Dominican charism as lay people. In collaboration with the Dominican Family, we work to promote social justice and peace in society. Supported by prayer, study, community and ministry, we fulfill our vocation to proclaim the Gospel wherever we, as individuals, live and work.

P R O M O T E R S ' P A G E**by Fr. Jim Motl, OP, Central Province Promoter for the Dominican Laity, on August 22, The Queenship of Mary**

On Saturday, September 9, I had the opportunity to concelebrate a Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica in Chicago honoring "Secular Orders," a name used to include all groups of lay people who have associated themselves to various religious orders by promising to live their lives in the spirit of the Order to which they have made profession. The sponsoring groups for this first of its kind event in Chicago were Benedictines, Carmelites, Dominicans, Franciscans, and Servites. Six hundred people attended the event, which began with Morning Prayer, continued with a biblical Rosary, and included a presentation of gifts symbolic of each of the participating orders to Cardinal George, who presided at the Mass concluding the event. Afterwards there was a reception at which each of the lay groups had a table presenting information about its particular charism and way of life. While many of those attending were members of one or another of the "Secular Orders," there were some who were inquiring, and many took pamphlets [and newsletters] from the Dominican table and asked questions of delegates from the River Forest Chapter who represented us. Guy Murphy, Moderator of the River Forest Chapter and our Provincial Vice-President, was Chair of the Planning Committee for this joint venture. I want to thank him and the River Forest Chapter, who represented us in an exemplary way at this event. Cardinal George said that he hopes it will become a yearly event in the Chicago Archdiocese.

There are three things I hope can come from this celebration. The first is that our Dominican Laity in other places can cooperate with lay members of other religious orders to promote such a celebration in their own dioceses and that this cooperation can lead to even greater collaboration among lay people who seek spiritual strength and guidance from the traditions of religious orders. I know that Denver already has such a yearly Mass of recognition for lay members of religious families. Working together with others, I think we can contribute much more to the life of the Church than working in isolated groups. My second hope is that wider recognition of this potential will attract more people to Dominican Laity and other organizations like ours because they can see the potential that dedicated lay life can have for the Church's mission of bringing the Kingdom of God to fuller realization in our world today.

Cardinal George voiced my third hope in his homily on this occasion. He spoke of the need for lay Catholics to speak for the Church in our day. It is sad that the voice of the bishops and priests has been compromised in the eyes of some by scandals surrounding sexual abuse. Faced with the mission to carry the Good News of God's saving love to people in our world today, it becomes even more important for the Church to rely on its lay members to speak that message in their daily lives by word and action. The Cardinal urged all present to give their lives to speaking for the Church in believable ways that are backed up by the charity obvious in their lives. This call is especially powerful for Dominicans whose special charism is preaching. St. Dominic founded an Order of Preachers when preaching by bishops and priests was not being heard, principally because clergy of the time were not educated well enough to preach competently. In our day, ordained ministers are educated and do preach, often with some ability. It is the credibility of those who are ordained that is questioned at present. This is regrettable, but it would be even more regrettable if the message of God's love for our world were unheard. This is, I think, Cardinal George's concern. It is a concern that Lay Dominicans, who share the preaching vocation of the Order, should respond to readily. As individuals and as chapters, Lay Dominicans should be asking, "What can we do through our words and actions to let our world know that God's voice and God's love is not silent in our time?"

I do not wish to create the impression that there should be opposition between the voices of laity and clergy within the Church. In a human institution like the Church, there will always be a variety of voices. Our whole effort should be to ensure that the one message of God's love and justice is what is heard and seen in our words and deeds. It is for this reason that we should collaborate with others in our efforts to preach God's Word. Collaboration should be a hallmark of our ministry of preaching, collaboration with others outside and within the Dominican Family. It is all too easy in human affairs for differences to escalate into rivalries. Sometimes this can happen within our chapters and among branches of the Family. When we recognize it happening, we must be honest and humble in acknowledging that others may have just as good a way of looking at and accomplishing God's work as we do.

This fall the Finance Committee will meet to recommend standards for using the bequest given to Lay Dominicans of our Province by Richard Irvine and to plan for our financial future. We will also move forward on revising our Provincial Formation Guidelines. Pray that these collaborative efforts will prove helpful for Dominican Laity of our Province and be a model for our future efforts on the provincial and chapter levels. So far another collaborative project, the effort to assist Iraqi Lay Dominicans through the Family Helping Family Fund, has brought in over \$1,400. The goal of this campaign is to raise \$10 for every Lay Dominican in Iraq. At present Fr. Richard Woods, who visited Dominicans in Iraq before the Coalition invasion, and Fr. Jerry Stookey, our International Promoter for Dominican Laity, are assembling a list of Iraqi Lay Dominicans. They estimate there are approximately 600, so we have a way to go to meet our goal. If you haven't contributed yet, send your check [payable to "St. Dominic Mission Society; Iraqi Laity"] to: Dominican Laity Iraq Project; St. Dominic Priory; 3601 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108-3393.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CHAPTERS

ALBUQUERQUE, NM NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LAS MONTAÑAS PROCHAPTER

Deceased: Helen Fisher on July 7

Their chapter study of the rosary used the Apostolic Letter, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, and "The Rosary" chapter in *Sing A New Song* by Fr. Timothy Radcliffe. On August 3, Formation Director Sr. Pauline Richter's Golden Jubilee of profession was celebrated.

ANN ARBOR, MI ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA INFORMAL GROUP

Deceased: Cecilia Soraruf on June 6

DENVER, CO ST. DOMINIC CHAPTER

Congratulations: Moderator Jim Steffens, Vice-Moderator Mickie Kilker, Secretary Valerie Horner, Provincial Council Delegate/Treasurer Gene Dell, Formation Dir. Dolly Suazo, and Ass't. Formation Dir. Steve Smith

DUBUQUE, IA ST. ROSE OF LIMA CHAPTER

Deceased: Evelyn M. Stokesberry on July 21

June 28 was their Day of Renewal presented by Fr. Jim Motl, OP and Laity President Ruth Kummer.

MILWAUKEE, WI QUEEN OF THE ROSARY CHAPTER

Sick: Marcie Boyer; Everett Byrne, husband of Esther; and Karen Sabourin

RIVER FOREST, IL ST. VINCENT FERRER CHAPTER

Sick: Initiate Betty Carr

ROCKFORD, IL ST. PETER MARTYR CHAPTER

Final Profession: Marie Nesmith on August 8

Sick: Dr. Thomas Starshak

A special St. Dominic's feast day celebration was held. Some members are attending a Sinsinawa Mound retreat on September 27-28. Private members, Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Barbara Starshak, who founded the Holy Rosary Chapter (now defunct) in Aurora, IL in 1962, were welcomed as inactive chapter members.

ST. LOUIS, MO QUEEN OF THE HOLY ROSARY CHAPTER

Congratulations: Moderator Wes Lohr

Sick: Ruby Bogdanovich

Deceased: Ruby Bogdanovich's husband

Five professed members, transferring from other chapters, were welcomed: Barbara Beardsley (Eastern Province), Lora Stone (Albuquerque, NM), Michael and Mary Thompson (Southern Province), and Cora Tomeldan (Manila, Philippines).

SPRINGFIELD, IL OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART CHAPTER

Congratulations: Jo Ann Bayer, recipient of the Diocese of Springfield, IL's Magnificat Award in recognition of her extensive diocesan, parish, and community volunteer work; Moderator Peggy Lindsey; Vice-Moderator Gail Eck; Secretary/Treasurer Blanche Dominick; Provincial Council Delegate Edward Chong-Ling; and Provincial Council Alternate Delegate Christina Ramirez

OUR PRIVATE MEMBERS

Sick: Louise Lewright, Bethalto, IL; Esther Miles, Grand Rapids, MI; Jill O'Brien's mother, sister, and brother-in-law, Chicago, IL; Virginia Vipond, Lake Odessa, MI

Deceased: Florence Adams, Ramsey, MN in Spring 2003; Dorothy Liszewski, Grand Rapids, MI in September 2001; Anthony Rhomberg, Rochester, MN on December 5, 2002

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

Newly-elected Prior Provincial Fr. Michael A. Mascari, OP; Socius/Vicar Provincial Fr. David F. Wright, OP; and Vicar Provincial Fr. John J. Meany, OP

a return to health for all members of the Order who are ill

an increase in vocations to all branches of the Dominican Order

Call to Action from page 1

IRAQ The role of the Dominican Family in N. America is to be in solidarity with and in support of the people of Iraq. Therefore, we recommend the following: 1) to encourage the Coordinating Committee on Iraq of the N. American Justice Promoters to continue the development of activities and to implement strategies for the Dominican Family in N. America; 2) to develop education and information activities domestically which provide truth on the situation; 3) to promote activities to strengthen our links with the Iraqi people as an expression of our solidarity with them; 4) to endorse and promote the *Iraq Solidarity Fund*; 5) to request the Geneva and New York offices of the Dominican Family at the UN intervene urging the international community through the UN to take seriously its responsibility for dealing with the aftermath of war in Iraq; and 6) to hold the US government, as the leader of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, to their responsibility as occupying power to respect and implement the Geneva Conventions and to work with the international community through the UN for the speedy, long-term recovery and reconstruction of Iraq.

AFRICA We continue to be in solidarity with the people of the Continent of Africa. Therefore, we recommend the following strategies: 1) that we support the US Development Assistance legislation, The Millennium Challenge Account, addressing African food crisis, global health and debt relief; 2) that we continue to foster responsible investment in Africa through intermediaries, e.g., Shared Interest; 3) that we monitor UN HIV/AIDS resolutions and convey findings to N. American Justice Promoters; 4) that we call the President of the US to accountability on HIV/AIDS, following his Summer 2003 African trip. We recommend calls and letters encouraging an appropriate humanitarian response to this epidemic; 5) that for HIV/AIDS ongoing educational materials, we refer N. American Justice Promoters to: <http://www.maryknoll/Global/Aids>, Africa Faith and Justice Network at <http://afjn.cua.edu> and Catholic Relief Services at <http://catholicrelief.org> and 6) that N. American Justice Promoters maintain a link with the Dominican Alliance Africa Sub-Committee.

COLOMBIA We urge the Dominican Family: 1) to raise awareness of the critical situation in Colombia and the consequences (economic and ecological) of US policies on the

people of this country; 2) to request that US legislators make human rights a priority in decisions affecting Colombians, increase humanitarian aid especially for displaced persons, lessen military aid, and stop aerial fumigation; 3) to urge the Colombian government to fulfill the recommendations of UN commissions that examined the human rights situation in Colombia; 4) to support the closing of the Western Hemispheric Institute of Security Cooperation; 5) to review our investments in corporations dealing with Colombia, i.e., Monsanto, and Occidental Petroleum; and 6) to express support and solidarity through our Dominican Family in Colombia (Delegation, e-mail, letter writing to Colombia officials).

IMMIGRANT AND MIGRANT WORKER RIGHTS

We recommend that the Dominican Family take some initial steps to: 1) be aware of immigrant and/or migrant issues in local geographic areas, and advocate for justice for those whose voices are not heard; 2) review congregational, provincial, and institutional employment practices in terms of supporting a living wage, offering health benefits, and protecting immigrant workers who are being detained or deported by the Department of Homeland Security; and 3) support the Immigrant Workers' Freedom Ride, September 20-October 4, 2003 <www.nicwj.org>

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS We recommend that: 1) we educate ourselves and our publics regarding the serious ethical questions raised by the globalization of our food systems and genetically modified foods; 2) we examine our congregational investment portfolios and corporate responsibility statements in light of these concerns about genetically modified foods; and 3) we link with the work of the US Dominican Federation regarding the adoption of a corporate stance on genetically modified foods.

TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN PERSONS We recommend: 1) that we continue to educate ourselves as well as our congregations/provinces on the issue; 2) that we would form a working group of justice promoters to co-ordinate information and encourage action on the trafficking issue; 3) that we share resources within the justice network; 4) that we, as Dominicans, be in collaboration with appropriate groups, e.g., those who work in opposition to the legalization of prostitution; and 5) that we continue our awareness and support of Dominican efforts at the UN.

We offer this Dominican Call To Action on behalf of the entire Earth Community, believing that any work that strives to establish right relationships on this planet is the work of justice. <<http://www.op.org/dlc/justiceop/call2act03.htm>>

Chicago Celebration of Lay Orders from page 7 It was a good day for the laity. We are hopeful we will attract new members through this celebration. We hope to do it again next year.

If any Dominican Laity chapter would like more information or would like to do this in their own diocese, please feel free to contact Guy Murphy, O.P., Moderator of St. Vincent Ferrer Chapter, at 630-279-8424. A disk copy of the event's promotional flyer is available as well.

"If you want peace, work for justice."

Pope Paul VI

DOMINICAN LITURGICAL CALENDAR

October 2003

- 3- Bl. Dominic Spadafora, priest
 4- Our Holy Father Francis of Assisi, religious (F)
 5- **27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**, Hours Week III
 6- Bl. Bartolo Longo, lay Dominican
 7- Our Lady of the Rosary (F)
 8- Bl. Ambrose Sansedone, priest
 - Bl. Matthew Carreri, priest
 9- St. Louis Bertrand, priest (M)
 11- Bl. James of Ulm, religious
 12- **28th Sunday in Ordinary Time**, Hours Week IV
 13- Bl. Magdalen Panatieri, lay Dominican
 14- Bl. Marie Poussepin, lay Dominican
 19- **29th Sunday in Ordinary Time**, Hours Week I
 21- Bl. Peter of Città di Castello, priest
 22- Anniversary of the Dedication of a Church (S)
 25- Bl. Peter Geremia, priest
 26- **30th Sunday in Ordinary Time**, Hours Week II
 27- Bl. Bartholomew of Vicenza
 30- Bl. Benvenuta Bojani, lay Dominican
 - Bls. Terence O'Brien, bishop, and Peter Higgins, priest; martyrs

November 2003

- 1- All Saints (S)
 2- **All Souls***, Hours Week III
 3- St. Martin de Porres (F)
 5- Bl. Simon Ballachi, religious
 6- Bl. Francis de Capillas and Alphonsus Navarrete, priests, and Companions, martyrs (M)
 7- All Saints of the Order of Preachers (F)
 8- Anniversary of Deceased Brothers and

Sisters of the Order*

- 9- **Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome (F)**, Hours Week IV
 14- Bl. John Liccio, priest
 - Bl. Lucia of Narni, religious
 15- St. Albert the Great, bishop/doctor (S)
 16- **33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**, Hours Week I
 19- Bl. James Benefatti, bishop
 23- **Christ the King (S)**, Hours Week II
 24- Ss. Ignatius Delgado, bishop, Vincent Liem, priest, Dominic An-Kham lay Dominican, and Companions, martyrs (M)
 25- Bl. Margaret of Savoy, religious
 30- **1st Sunday of Advent**, Hours Week I

December 2003

- 1- Bl. John of Vercelli, priest
 7- **2nd Sunday of Advent**, Hours Week II
 8- The Immaculate Conception (S)
 12- Our Lady of Guadalupe (F)
 14- **3rd Sunday of Advent**, Hours Week III
 16- Bl. Sebastian Maggi, priest
 21- **4th Sunday of Advent**, Hours Week IV
 25- Christmas (S)
 28- **The Holy Family (F)**, Hours Week I

January 2004

- 1- Mary, the Mother of God (S)
 3- Bl. Stephana Quinzani, religious
 4- **Epiphany of the Lord (S)**, Hours Week II

- (S) Solemnity (F) Feast
 (M) Memorial (OM) Optional Memorial
 * Office for the Dead is prayed

Year-End Report on the Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003

<u>ORDINARY EXPENSES</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Projected</u>
<u>Account #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>7/01/01 - 6/30/02</u>	<u>7/01/02 - 6/30/03</u>	<u>7/01/03 - 6/30/04</u>
5101	Office Supplies	\$ 71.81	\$ 465.81	\$ 400.00
5106	Postage	\$ 838.85	\$ 914.18	\$ 810.00 ¹
5111	Stationery & Printing	\$ 189.41	\$ 0.00	\$ 200.00 ²
5116	Xerox	\$ 14.56	\$ 66.92	\$ 50.00
5122	Apostolate Library	\$ 22.50	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00 ³
5126	Telephone	\$ 67.74	\$ 0.00	\$ 75.00
5141	Travel	\$ 1,488.74	\$ 1,265.45	\$ 2,000.00 ⁴
5144	Housing Room and Board	\$ 58.38	\$ 4,553.45	\$ 2,600.00 ⁵
5162	DomCentral Online Services	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
5175	Gifts	\$ 50.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 50.00 ⁶
6131	Newsletter Printing	\$ 3,013.21	\$ 1,566.83	\$ 1,128.00 ⁷
6191	Merchandise for Resale	\$ 0.00	\$ 88.23	\$ 100.00 ⁸
6208	Post Office Box Rental	\$ 45.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 38.00
6305	Auto Rental	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
6511	Office Equipment Less \$100	\$ 0.00	\$ 29.99	\$ 0.00
6601	Office Equipment Over \$100	\$ 0.00	\$ 239.96	\$ 0.00
7512	DLIPC Mtg. Hospitality	\$ 0.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 0.00
7513	Profess'l Meals Out (DLIPC)	\$ 0.00	\$ 421.05	\$ 0.00
9892	Secretarial Services	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
9893	ICLDF Dev. (Solidarity Fund)	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00 ⁹
9894	Promoter's Expenses	\$ 188.50	\$ 1,355.29	\$ 1,500.00
	Totals	\$ 6,158.70	\$ 12,307.16	\$ 9,581.00
<u>ORDINARY INCOME</u>		\$ 12,107.30	\$ 9,814.45	\$ 9,814.45

¹Quarterly *Challenge* newsletter mailings of Autumn '03, Winter '04, Spring '04, and Summer '04: \$133.20 (37 cents x 360 one-ounce copies) x 4 issues = **\$532.80**; officers' postage **\$200**; and postage increase allowance **\$77.20**

²Dominican Laity promotional fliers

³2004 Dominican Liturgical Calendars for chapters

⁴Justice, Peace, and Care of Creation (JPCC) mtg. July 2003; Dominican Laity InterProvincial Council (DLIPC) mtg. Feb. 2004; PARABLE Advisory Board mtg. Jan. 2004; 2003 N. American Dominican Family representatives' mtg. (mandated by the Master of the Order); and President's five remaining chapter visitations

⁵Dominican Laity Provincial Council (DLPC) mtg. April 22-25, 2004 **\$2,100** + Chapter Visitations **\$500**

⁶Funeral flowers, Masses, memorials, and commemoratives

⁷Quarterly *Challenge* newsletter's printing, collating, single fold and scoring fees: \$257 (360 copies of 8 pages each) x 4 issues = **\$1028**; printing cost increase **\$100**

⁸Purchase of scapulars, medals, and crosses

⁹Annual contribution to develop International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities (ICLDF)

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR FUND DRIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

Louann Adcock, Jo Ann Bayer, Paul F. Bisanz, Ambrose Dolan, Joan and Robert Engel, John Lynn Gullickson, Marion Keegan, Sharon Kramer, Pat Lucy, Jill O'Brien, Walter Stadelman, and fourteen anonymous donors.

If you would like to support our Province's Dominican Laity work for your benefit by contributing to our annual Fund Drive, please direct your check to: Dominican Laity Office; P. O. Box 085451; Racine, WI 53408-5451. Thank you for considering the Dominican Laity's work important enough for your financial support. We promise to be good stewards.

COMMENTARY ON FISCAL YEAR-END BUDGET REPORT

by Mary Lee Odders, OP, Dominican Laity Provincial Treasurer

The Year-End Budget Report for Fiscal Year July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003 appears on page 6. Briefly, this is the format. The various types of expenses are detailed in the left column. The last two year's expenses are the middle columns. The right column is our approved budget for the new fiscal year, which began on July 1. This has expenses adjusted to be more in line with our income.

The term "Ordinary Income" includes dues, Fund Drive contributions, *Challenge* newsletter subscriptions, Provincial Council contributions, interest on our savings accounts, and an Irvine Estate annuity. Ordinary Income decreased by one-sixth for the fiscal year ending in June 2002 when compared to June 2003.

Bylaw-mandated chapter visitations by our Laity President Ruth Kummer and Promoter Fr. Jim Motl primarily accounted for the increase in expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003. Five visitations will occur in the current fiscal year.

Members' written comments regarding the publication of this year-end report will be shared at our March 2004 Provincial Council meeting.

CHICAGO CELEBRATION OF LAY ORDERS

by Guy Murphy, OP, Dominican Laity Provincial Vice-President

On August 9th, a celebration of the Lay Orders took place with Francis Cardinal George at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica in Chicago. This was the fruit of a collaborative effort between the Dominicans, Franciscans, Carmelites, Servants of Mary, and Oblates of St. Benedict.

The day consisted of Morning Prayer and a scriptural Rosary of the Luminous mysteries. Symbolic gifts of each order were given to the Cardinal. The Cardinal celebrated Mass with 12 other "Order Priests" concelebrating. There was a reception afterwards with refreshments. Each Order had a booth with literature and answered questions about the Laity.

August 9 was awesome. We had a surprisingly good turn out of around 600 people. The Dominican Provincial Promoter Fr. Jim Motl concelebrated with Francis Cardinal George. The Cardinal gave a good homily about the importance of the laity. He received a standing ovation. The music by St. Theresa Ensemble was motivating.

We hope it will bear fruit with some more members. Many thanks to Fr. Motl and the River Forest Chapter members for participating. Special thanks to DLPC President, Ruth Kummer who provided the gift for the Cardinal. It was a beautiful sun catcher of the Dominican shield.

(turn to page 4)

ETERNAL REST, O LORD

Laity President Ruth Kummer graciously shares that on June 6, **Cecilia Soraruf** died. She was a bright, holy mother of 11 live children (two sets of twins.) As a business woman, she catered meals for weddings, banquets, and church functions. Artistically, she created porcelain dolls, each with hand-made clothing. In her few quiet minutes, she wrote poetry. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. She was professed as a Lay Dominican for many years. For a time, the Ann Arbor, MI Informal Group met at her home, and she would end the evening with Slovak treats.

Patricia Zavadil of the Nuestra Señora de las Montañas Prochapter in Albuquerque, New Mexico graciously informs us that their moderator, **Helen Fisher**, passed away on July 6. Her memorial Mass was on July 10, which was her 92nd birthday. Father Bob Keller and Father Mike Demkovich led family and friends in a beautiful recitation and singing of the Office for the Dead on the evening of July 9. Almost all of her sisters in the Dominican Laity were there and had the opportunity to share about Helen's life during the service. The Dominican Laity provided a reception after her memorial Mass. At her internment, several members were there to pray again that she knows peace and joy in her life with the Lord of her life. Helen was a member of the Dominican Laity for over 55 years and lived a life of study and service.

Light As Sentinel *from page 1* anxiety in millions of people across the eastern portion of North America. Since it has become routine in an area that was planned for fewer users, on August 14 the writer was on the Internet, but she did not think it an exception that a “brown out” or possible “rolling black out” occurred. ...

[Soon] darkness brings about delight when the sky is clear and 60,000 years out in the universe, the planet Mars lights up the sky with various interpretations....

When Fr. Vincent de Couesnongle, OP (former Master of the Order) was asked a question about the completion of the Document on Dominican Family, his response was, “There is always great darkness before there is light.” These days of darkness are harbingers of hope for great light.

* * *

Visitations of the chapters are near completion with only Michigan on the calendar in November. Each chapter has been an inspiration of the dedication to the four pillars of Dominican Spirituality. Chapters, who have written a summary of the visitation and sent it to Fr. Jim Motl, were posted on <www.domlife.org>. If you have not sent your report, check to see where it may be. The material sent is considered a historical document of your chapter.

New members are welcome, but I also know those who have contacted us are patient while we seek Spiritual Assistants and Formation Directors. Large groups of Chaldean Dominicans are present. There are five parishes and members from each parish. Each year a Dominican comes from Iraq to give a presentation to the Laity. Fr. Jim Motl and the president have been in communication with their Spiritual Assistant. We welcome them to our Dominican Family.

The Finance Committee meets September 13 to develop procedures, policies and a reporting system in preparation for the upcoming Provincial Council meeting.

Another goal to complete is the Formation Program. The Novice Master of the Friars will give the opening address at the next Provincial Council meeting, March 25-28, 2004 at St. John Family and Youth Center, Plymouth, MI. Final details are being completed, and agenda items have been requested from moderators. Give the items to your delegate and send a copy to the president’s address [on *Challenge’s* front page.]

Mary Lee Odders

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CHALLENGE
