

CHALLENGE



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WINTER 2004

FAMILY HELPING FAMILY FUND UPDATE

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



I have been in touch with two medical doctors in Iraq, who have been trying to pass my messages to Dominican Laity. They say they also have had trouble finding their addresses. I have been sending messages through the Dominican Sisters and I have gotten replies from the Sisters, but it seems to stop there. Because of that, I am not transferring any funds until I am confident that we have a reliable conduit to the Dominican Laity. Moreover, we want to communicate with them, not just send money. They are our brothers and sisters, too, and we, their family in the USA, care about them.

The Iraqi currency has just changed again, so it may be actually better to wait until the dinar-to-dollar value stabilizes and then send the donations.

Textbooks are being collected here at my university's medical school to send to a medical school in Tikrit. I am hoping that they will share their contact information with me, but the organizers have not responded yet.

Our goal for the Family Helping Family Fund is \$5,000. The total received to date is over \$2,000. Please make donation checks payable to: "St. Dominic Mission Society; Iraqi Laity." (Donations MUST say "laity" or money will go into a general fund.)

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

FINDING HOPE IN OUR TROUBLED WORLD: REFLECTIONS FOR ADVENT AND BEYOND



We fast, pray, contemplate and wait on God because we are people of hope. In the midst of violence around the world, we focus on hope this Advent, and we invite you to join us.

Several Dominican colleagues share their thoughts with us. Where do they find hope in the world today? How do they live out this hope in their everyday lives? Is there one particular Scripture that guides them?

As we are preparing our hearts for God during Advent, we do so in hope that God's love will transform us and the world to one of great peace.

You are invited to share your hope in the world with us, too, this Advent. You may submit your reflection — no more than 100 words — and send it to us for posting at <www.dominicanfastforpeace.org>. (We do reserve the right to edit submissions for space, propriety and clarity).

May peace fill your heart this Advent and beyond.

(turn to page 4)

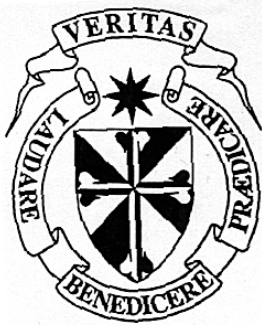
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- www.op.org/oplaity
- Send dues, Fund Drive contributions, Meeting Report Forms, Challenge articles, and non-member newsletter subscription requests (\$10 yearly) to: Dominican Laity Office P. O. Box 085451 Racine, WI 53408-5451
- Send supply orders, 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



Advent is a season of hope. After completing the visits of the Lay Dominicans in the Province of St. Albert the Great with Ruth, our Provincial President, I can only say that my heart is filled with hope. This hope is not just one for survival. All but one or two of the groups have attracted new members recently, and even the groups which have not still continue to think of continuation and future growth. As I have often said on this page and in meeting with you personally, there is no lack of interest in Dominican Laity in the Church of our area. We hear from numbers of people who want to live the ideal of Dominican Laity but who do not reside in areas where a group currently exists. If people like this are present in other areas, I can't help but think that there are also some in areas where we already are organized that we are not reaching. In the months ahead, I hope to work on redoing our provincial web page for Dominican Laity along the lines we explained when we visited the chapters. This format would provide instant information about where chapters are already active.

Our visit to the Michigan area in early November gave hope for an expanded vision of who we are. We have been aware for some time that there are many Dominican Laity of Iraqi background in the Detroit area. A few of these who are more acquainted with the English language have made contacts with our groups in the area. While I was in Michigan, Ruth and I visited Fr. Jacob Yasso, who serves as spiritual director for one of these groups. We learned that there are at least 150 active Lay Dominicans who meet regularly in three Chaldean rite parishes in the Detroit area. In Fr. Yasso's parish, Lay Dominicans serve the parish in many capacities. They meet once a week for three to four hours of prayer, study, and community activity in addition to their service to the parish. We look forward to establishing closer ties with these Lay Dominicans, most of whom joined the Dominican Family in their native Iraq. Since my last letter, three finally professed Vietnamese Lay Dominicans, who want to establish a chapter for Vietnamese-speaking people in the Denver area, have also contacted me. Ruth and I have asked Jim Steffens, moderator of the Denver Chapter, to offer whatever assistance their chapter can give to them in getting started. It is apparent to me that in the future, Dominican Laity of our Province will have a more international make up. We would like to have at least one representative of our Iraqi chapters at our next Provincial Council meeting next March. Since that meeting is in the Detroit area, it should not be too difficult to arrange.

Our Advent hope is not chiefly for growth of our membership, of course. Our hope lies in God's will to bring us into the Kingdom of his Son, whose birth we remember and celebrate at Christmas. We celebrate this past because it tells us of God's willingness to do whatever is necessary to bring us to that Kingdom. The celebration is a call for us to respond, and our Dominican way of life gives us a way to respond. Our prayer and study can bring us to fuller membership. Our life in community and the service we offer to the Church as our way of preaching the Good News can make the Kingdom of Christ more visible in the world and more clearly heard. During the Christmas season, you will all be in my prayers and Masses and those of my brother friars at the Priory of St. Dominic in St. Louis.

T O P R A I S E ♦ T O B L E S S ♦ T O P R E A C H

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CHAPTERS

DENVER, CO ST. DOMINIC CHAPTER

First Profession: Valerie Horner and Maria Elena Gutierrez on October 4

Congratulations: Fr. Robert Staes, OP is the chapter's new Spiritual Director.

Their new chapter study will be the Gospel of Luke with the Collegetown Bible Commentary as a study guide. Moderator Jim Steffens and the chapter are assisting a Vietnamese-speaking ProChapter's development in Denver..

DUBUQUE, IA ST. ROSE OF LIMA CHAPTER

At their September 27-28 Sinsinawa Mound retreat, Retreat Director Fr. John Gerlach, OP spoke on Matthew 25, the parable of the ten virgins.

MILWAUKEE, WI QUEEN OF THE ROSARY CHAPTER

First Profession: Rosalie Durante on November 22

Sick: Marcie Boyer, Winnie Dahle, and Karen Sabourin

MINNEAPOLIS, MN HOLY ROSARY CHAPTER

Sick: Mary McDermott

Deceased: Celia Hix and James Longie

RIVER FOREST, IL ST. VINCENT FERRER CHAPTER

On their chapter's October 4 Day of the Holy Rosary, Fr. Robert Botthof, OP and Br. Don Kania, OP were the featured speakers along with chapter members, Virgil Kolb, Frank Pappadopoli, and Bess Torralba. The day was open to the public, and presentations were well received. The chapter's year-long Rosary Confraternity project has signed up over 500 people.

ROCKFORD, IL ST. PETER MARTYR CHAPTER

Some members attended a September 27-28 Sinsinawa Mound retreat with members of the St. Rose of Lima Chapter, Dubuque, IA.

ST. LOUIS, MO QUEEN OF THE HOLY ROSARY CHAPTER

Chapter Secretary Cynthia Ricard and Provincial Promoter Fr. Jim Motl have been attending the student Masses at Aquinas Institute, where several inquirers have asked to attend a chapter meeting.

SPRINGFIELD, IL OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART CHAPTER

Deceased: Blanche Dominick's husband, Harvey, in September 2003

Sick: George Eck

The chapter will have a booth at the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Springfield Dominicans. They are finishing their study of the catechism for the next year.

OUR PRIVATE MEMBERS

Sick: Jill O'Brien's mother, sister, and brother-in-law, Chicago, IL

Deceased: Helen Collins of Chicago, IL in Summer 2003

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- a return to health for all members of the Order who are ill
- an increase in vocations to all branches of the Dominican Order
- guidance of the Holy Spirit and travel safety for the February 19-22, 2004 InterProvincial Council meeting hosted by the Western Province
- guidance of the Holy Spirit and travel safety for the March 25-28, 2004 Provincial Council meeting

Hope in a Troubled World *from page 1* Reflections submitted include:

“As a high school exchange student in Peru, it occurred to me one day that the verb ‘to hope’ in Spanish is the same as the verb ‘to wait’ — esperar. To hope is to learn to wait. It is the poor who have taught me that it is possible to walk life’s long, winding path with patient hope, with eyes that peer through the darkness, believing in the promised Reign of God. I have seen their hopeful eyes thousands of times; and each time I see them, I learn anew. I know that world peace can come only with this kind of hope.

Many Scriptures guide my life. One is the story of the blind man who cries out from the side of the road for Jesus’ compassion (Lk 18:35-43). As happens so often with the poor, he is silenced by the political and religious professionals. But Jesus hears the cry. Jesus’ contemplative heart always hears what the world does not. He speaks to the man, heals him and welcomes him into the community of disciples. Without the use of violence, Jesus dismantles the structures which push the poor to the side of the road. Contemplative listening, prophetic preaching and compassionate community — this is what it means for me to be a Dominican and a disciple of Jesus.”

—Brian Pierce, OP; Original Fast for Peace faster Sept. 1-28, 2002; Southern Province; Raleigh, NC

“Of late, I have taken consolation in the following Bahá’í prayer called The Remover of Difficulties: ‘Is there any remover of difficulties save God? Say this: Praised be God! God is God! All are God’s servants, and all abide by God’s bidding.’

These last years, with 9/11, the Church crisis and now still Iraq, have driven me ever more deeply into the connection of prayer and justice. I truly believe God is using these crises to give voice to victims in the project of painstakingly making manifest to us the folly of violence and our human vocation to unity.”

—Gregory Heille, OP; Central Province; St. Louis, MO

“Amidst much darkness in the world today, I find sparkles of light and much hope when I witness, realize and partner with so many people of goodwill who are striving for the common good. It matters not what faith tradition my fellow co-creators follow.

I live out my hope as a Dominican by sharing with others the fruits of my contemplation. Centering Prayer and praying the Office grounds me in Christ. As I write this, yesterday was the Feast of St. Teresa of Avila. I was inspired by the Second Office of Readings, which included from Teresa’s work, ‘For if at some time the Lord should grant us the grace of impressing his love on our hearts, all will become easy for us and we shall accomplish great things quickly and without effort.’ The fruits of my contemplation are disseminated via emails, national call-ins and lobby days, to name a few.

I have two favorite Scripture passages that guide me. Isaiah 54:10 is my absolute favorite. However, whenever I start feeling burnout while doing justice work, the following from 2 Corinthians 8-10, comes to mind — ‘We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.’”

—Joyce Calagos, OPL; Western Province; Dominican Laity

from www.dominicanfastforpeace.org

DOMINICAN LITURGICAL CALENDAR

December 2003

- 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, Mother of God (S),
 Hours Week I
 3- The Most Holy Name of Jesus
 4- **The Epiphany of the Lord (S)**,
 Hours Week II
 7- St. Raymond of Penyafort, priest (M)
 10- Bl. Gonsalvo of Amarante, priest
 - Bl. Ann of the Angels Monteagudo,
 religious
 11- **The Baptism of the Lord (F)**,
 Hours Week I
 18- **2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**,
 Hours Week II
 19- Bl. Andrew of Peschiera, priest
 22- Bl. Anthony Della Chiesa, priest
 23- Bl. Henry Suso, priest
 25- **3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**,
 Hours Week III
 27- Bl. Marcolino of Forli, priest
 28- St. Thomas Aquinas, priest/doctor (F)
 29- Bl. Villana de' Botti, lay Dominican

February 2004

- 1- **4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**,
 Hours Week IV
 2- The Presentation of the Lord (F)
 3- Bl. Peter of Ruffia, priest/martyr
 - Bl. Anthony of Pavonio, priest/martyr
 - Bl. Bartholomew of Cerverio, priest
 4- St. Catherine de' Ricci, virgin (M)
 7- Anniversary of Deceased Parents*

8- 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time,

- Hours Week I
 12- Bl. Reginald of Orleans, priest (OM)
 13- Bl. Jordan of Saxony, priest (M)
 15- **6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**,
 Hours Week II
 16- Bl. Nicholas of Paglia, priest
 18- Bl. John of Fiesole (Fra Angelico)
 (OM)
 19- Bl. Alvarez of Cordoba, priest
 20- Bl. Christopher of Milan, priest
 22- **7th Sunday in Ordinary Time**,
 Hours Week III
 24- Bl. Constantius of Fabriano, priest
 25- Ash Wednesday
 29- **1st Sunday of Lent**, Hours Week I

March 2004

- 7- **2nd Sunday of Lent**, Hours Week II
 14- **3rd Sunday of Lent**, Hours Week III
 19- St. Joseph, Husband of Mary (S)
 21- **4th Sunday of Lent**, Hours Week IV
 25- The Annunciation of the Lord (S)
 28- **5th Sunday of Lent**, Hours Week I

April 2004

- 4- **Palm Sunday**, Hours Week II
 5- St. Vincent Ferrer, priest (M)
 8- Holy Thursday
 9- Good Friday
 10- Holy Saturday
 11- **Easter Sunday (S)**, Hours Week I
 (S) Solemnity; (F) Feast; (M) Memorial
 (OM) Opt. Memorial; * Office for the
 Dead



PRAYER DEDICATING THE ORDER OF PREACHERS TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



Virgin Mother Mary, with trust we approach you. We, your preachers, fly to you who believed in the words sent from heaven and pondered them in your heart. We stand close around you, who are always present to the gathering of apostles.

In you the Word was made flesh, that same Word which we receive, contemplate, praise together and preach. Therefore, under your guidance we today devote ourselves anew to the ministry of the Word. Furthermore, we declare to you that, hearing with you the Word within ourselves and anointed by the Spirit, whose sacred vessel you pre-eminently are, we are consecrated in the name of Jesus Christ to the evangelization of the world.

With the eyes of your heart enlightened, you understood the mystery of the Word. Through you we, too, are able to perceive the presence of that same Word in the history of our time, so that we may finally contemplate him face to face.

Through you the Father sent his Son into the world that he might save it. Through you we will be powerful in the sight of your people, becoming witnesses of that truth which frees and of that love which unites.

To this place we have brought our needs and here we ponder them. Do you, Mother, give us strength and preserve the harmony of our family, so that what was begun by our profession may be brought to completion by our love for one another, for the salvation of the world and to the praise and glory of God.

"O" Antiphons of Advent Evening Prayer from the Dominican Antiphonarium:

"O Sapientia (O Wisdom, O Holy Word of God)..." for December 17

"O Adonai (O Sacred Lord of Ancient Israel)..." for December 18

"O Radix Jesse (O Flower of Jesse's Stem)..." for December 19

"O Clavis David (O Key of David)..." for December 20

"O Oriens (O Radiant Dawn)..." for December 21

"O Rex (O King of all the Nations...O Keystone of the Mighty Arch of Man)..."
for December 22

"O Emmanuel..." for December 23

from domcentral.org/life

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FUND DRIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

We want to thank Marcie Boyer and Joan and Robert Engel for their Fund Drive donations. If you would like to support our Province's Dominican Laity work, 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.

2004 PROVINCIAL DUES NOTICE

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The start of the new calendar year marks the beginning of our annual collection of provincial membership dues for 2004. We synchronize our provincial dues collection with the start of the new year to eliminate confusion about when to collect dues.

Fund Drive contributions and provincial membership dues largely finance our operating budget. We rely on and appreciate your dues payment, which supports our work benefiting you. \$30 individual dues or \$40.00 for families are apportioned with \$5 for the *Challenge* subscription, \$5 for the Dominican Laity Provincial Council meeting, and the remainder for our yearly expenses.

Chapter treasurers are invaluable in reminding chapter members of their provincial dues responsibilities, and I thank you. Please remit a chapter check or individual personal checks payable to DOMINICAN LAITY to the Laity Office.

Private members are asked to mail their annual dues payments directly to the Dominican Laity Office; P. O. Box 85451; Racine, WI 53408-5451. If on a fixed income, please pay what you can. Even paying \$5 for the *Challenge* subscription is helpful in covering printing and postage costs.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response to this request.

Yours in Saints Dominic and Catherine,

Mary Lee Odders, OP, Provincial Treasurer

-----cut and return-----

Thank you for your 2004 Provincial membership dues payment, which supports our Province's Dominican Laity work for your benefit. Please make checks payable to DOMINICAN LAITY.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

UPDATE ON THE IRVINE BEQUEST TO THE CENTRAL PROVINCE
by Mary Lee Odders, OP, Provincial Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair

In December 2001, a bequest check to the Central Province's Third Order of St. Dominic and an accompanying letter arrived at Chicago's Dominican Provincial Offices. No one was expecting it; no one knew the donor, Mr. Richard Irvine. From Mr. Irvine's letter, it was clear that he did not want the bequest spent on operating expenses of the Dominican Laity. On our behalf, Vicar Provincial Fr. David Wright, OP communicated with the estate attorney over the course of six months to determine the presence of any written restrictions on the bequest. In the absence thereof and in keeping with the spirit of Mr. Irvine's wish, the October 2002 Provincial Council approved the conservative investment of the bequest monies utilizing Edward Jones Investments expertise and the use of the income generated from investments for the education of members, educational inserts for *Challenge*, and formation events. The Provincial Council further approved the structuring of a Finance Committee comprised of the Treasurer, President, Promoter, and appointed members to review investment recommendations of Edward Jones Investments and to forward its recommendations to the Executive Board of the Provincial Council for approval.

The Finance Committee, meeting in September 2003, developed procedures for approval and administration of funding proposals from the bequest interest, a funding proposal form, and guidelines for approving specific funding proposals. The March 2004 Provincial Council will consider the Finance Committee's recommendations for its approval.

Due to the printing deadline for the Spring 2004 newsletter, it will be the Summer 2004 newsletter that will update you on the March 2004 Provincial Council's actions relating to the

Mary Lee Odders

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED