

# CHALLENGE



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## ANNIVERSARY OF UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

by Philippe LeBlanc, OP, Permanent Delegate of the Order at the UN, December 7, 2003

Geneva—December 10 marks the 55th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Its adoption fifty-five years ago was a significant moment in the history of human rights. We also remember on this occasion the loss of a valiant defender of human rights, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergio Vieira de Mello, who was killed along with other UN workers in a brutal attack against their headquarters in Baghdad on August 19, 2003.

The Universal Declaration was adopted in 1948 following World War II and the full realization by the international community of the Holocaust and the monstrous crimes against humanity that were perpetuated by the Nazi regime.

These events greatly influenced the United Nations in recognizing the principle of the universality of fundamental rights and

freedoms. The UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration "as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations." It represents a moral consensus on the rights to which all human beings on this planet were entitled and on the obligations of governments to ensure that these rights would be respected. The most sacred of rights, the right to life, is recognized in article 2, which declares that "everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." The Declaration also recognizes in article 28 that "everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized."

The intrinsic value of all persons is recognized in article 1 of the Universal Declaration, which states "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights."

Moreover, as Christians, we believe that all persons are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27) and that, (turn to page 7)

## UNITED STATES DOMINICANS GATHER FOR CONVERSATION



Springfield, IL—United States Dominicans from the four branches of the Order gathered November 21-23, 2003 for an historic conversation as invited by Master of the Order fr. Carlos A. Azpiroz Costa and convened by PARABLE Conference to discern the feasibility of establishing a body representative of all the branches of the Order. [The Central Province was represented by previous Prior Provincial fr. Don Goergen and Provincial Dominican Laity President Ruth Kummer.]

By consensus, the group authorized a representative portion of its members to review "secretariat" models used by Dominicans in other countries and to propose possible models for the United States considering the many collaborative Dominican entities and affiliates that have evolved in the United States in the past two decades.

PARABLE will coordinate the logistics of the planned April and October gatherings and assist the group in gathering and sharing information. [Sharon Huizenga of the Milwaukee Chapter represents Dominican Laity on the PARABLE Advisory Board.]

from I.D.I. (International Dominican Information), Number 418, January 2004, p. 17

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- [www.op.org/oplaity](http://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

I am writing my spring Promoter's Page on the First Sunday of Lent. In preaching this morning, I dwelt on God's nearness to us. That theme is most explicit in the reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart." The "Scripture" to which Paul refers is the book of

*"God is truly closer to us than we are to ourselves. Our challenge is to become ever more aware of his presence."*

Deuteronomy from which the first reading is taken. This first reading includes an ancient Hebrew hymn praising God for his nearness to their nation from the time of its beginning with Abraham, "a wandering Aramean," through its enslavement in Egypt, and climaxing with its exodus across the Red Sea. This was the foundation of the Jewish belief in the Lord, who was always near to them. When Jesus was tempted he turned three times to this same book of Deuteronomy for quotations to rebuff the cloying words of the devil. Each of the temptations is an attempt to draw Jesus, whom God called his beloved son at his baptism, away from his awareness of and nearness to his Father. Jesus' response to these temptations is a model for us in time of temptation this Lent. Whether temptations come in the form of pleasures (like food), control (power and glory), or the desire for special

signs from God (throw yourself down and the angels will lift you up), the best way to counter them is to remind ourselves of God's history of always being near his people. Fasting can remind us that God alone can satisfy our deepest hungers. Great generosity can help us release our desire for power because in our society the easiest way to power is through money. A true spirit of prayer opens us to God's will, as opposed to the belief that we can manipulate God. My prayer for you this Lent is that you will grow in a deeper appreciation of God's nearness to you as creator and redeemer. God is truly closer to us than we are to ourselves. Our challenge is to become ever more aware of his presence.

Mary Lee Odders informed you in the winter issue of *Challenge* that the newly-formed Provincial Finance Committee met last fall. As an advisory committee to the Provincial Council, its recommendations will be considered at the March meeting. The Committee consists of Mary Lee Odders, Provincial Treasurer and Chair of the Committee; Ruth Kummer, Provincial President; Fr. James Motl, Provincial Promoter; Wes Lohr, Moderator of the St. Louis Chapter; and Ed Shea, Farmington Hills Chapter member. In addition to approving measures for administering the Irving Bequest, the Committee decided not to recommend an increase in provincial membership dues, but rather to ask the Provincial Council to establish a Membership Committee to investigate and recommend steps to increase Dominican Laity membership in the Province. Finance Committee members agreed that more information should be sought on what is involved in seeking and maintaining a tax-exempt status, so that future bequests need not be handled through the friars of the Province. The Irving Bequest and the Family Helping Family campaign to raise funds from Dominican Laity in this country to help Dominican Laity in Iraq have demonstrated the need for this step. The Family Helping Family collection has so far gathered over \$3,000. I thank those who have contributed thus far. To contribute, send checks to: Family Helping Family, St. Dominic's Priory, 3601 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108-3393. Make checks payable to "St. Dominic's Mission Society" and mark "Iraqi Project" on the memo line.

Steve Smith of the Denver Chapter, Ruth Kummer, and I attended the InterProvincial Council of Dominican Laity for North America, where representatives of the five provinces in the United States and Canada shared information about the life of the Dominican Laity in each area. We heard of a difference in the use of symbols and names from province to province. Many in the Eastern Province prefer to continue the use of "Third Order of St. Dominic" and to use the initials "TOP," while the Western Province uses the initials "OPL" at the request of the friars. Fr. Carlos, the Master General, prefers that Dominican Laity not use the initials "OP" unless the name is designated by a title, such as Mr. John Jones, OP or Mrs. Dorothy Smith, OP, indicating the user was not a priest or religious. I don't think that such titles are necessary when it is clear from the context that the individual is a member of the Dominican Laity, such as in our meetings and publications. We also heard Fr. Gerald Austin, OP speak on a theology for the laity based on the priesthood of baptized Christians and its call to bring to the altar the sacrifice of lives that demonstrate the love that led Christ to give his life for us.

**LETTER TO THE DOMINICAN LAITY INTER-PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEMBERS  
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19-22, 2004, ARIZONA, USA  
by fr. Gerald Stookey, OP, Promoter General of the Dominican Laity, February 18, 2004**

Greetings from your Promoter General in Santa Sabina, Rome! I am thinking of you during these days of your DLIPC meeting and have you in my prayers for a successful outcome of all your deliberations. May our Holy Father Dominic and our wonderful, lay sister, St. Catherine of Siena, inspire and accompany you for the good of the Holy Preaching!

I am so sorry that I am unable to attend your meeting because of the need to be present for the General Council's mini-plenary session, which begins at Santa Sabina on Monday morning, February 23. Having checked with airlines, I found no way of getting back to Rome by Sunday evening, without leaving Arizona on Saturday morning. Consequently, I simply could not justify attending DLIPC for such a short time.

However, I want to send you my prayers and support, and even a few comments here. First of all, it is very impressive all that Karen Woods has done to organize and prepare for this meeting. Thank you, Karen, and all those of the Western Province who have been part of what looks to be a very successful program. I am sure it will be a profitable meeting, thanks to your efforts.

I want to give you a brief report on the world scene of the Dominican Laity, in case you can benefit from the updated information. Surely, Laurie Biszko will give you additional reports from ICLDF [International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities]. Here is a quick picture of the regional Lay Dominican Fraternities' networks:

**AFRICA**: Held its very first assembly of all African Laity presidents in Bamenda, Cameroon, during February 2004. At that time they established 3 zones and elected coordinators for each: Western Africa—Mr. Gaston Santos (Nigeria), Eastern Africa—Ms. Yvette Ndeze (Rwanda), and Southern Africa—Mrs. Rita Luthuli (South Africa). They also elected the next African representative to the ICLDF, Mr. Marcus Kejungki (Cameroon). He will take office in 2005 when Mr. Emmanuel Afrifa (Nigeria) completes his 3-year term.

**ASIA-PACIFIC**: This is the only region which lacks a network and has not yet held any Lay Dominican leadership meetings. At the Asia-Pacific Dominican Family Leaders meeting in the Philippines, February 2003, a meeting of the Dominican Laity representatives who were present was held. Four zones for Asia-Pacific were created, but contacts are still lacking. Ms. Rowena Gonzales, Asia-Pacific representative to the ICLDF, is planning to hold zonal meetings during this year and the next. It is a huge region to network!

**EUROPE**: The ECLDF [European Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities] is preparing the VI Assembly of European Lay Dominicans to be held in Walberberg, Germany on May 30 – June 7, 2004. All moderators/presidents are expected to attend, plus another delegate and provincial promoter. Other guests and invitees are also being welcomed, including the Master of the Order. The theme is "Lay Dominicans for a New Europe". They will also elect a new council for ECLDF, approve some amendments to the Statutes, and determine the place for the next assembly to be held in three years.

**LATIN AMERICA**: The first meeting of the new network of Lay Dominican Fraternities of Latin America took place after the first Latin American Dominican Family Assembly in Lima, Peru, August 2004. Among others, the elected, zonal coordinators were present: Mexico/Central America/Caribbean zone—Mr. Hector Madujano (México), Bolivarian zone—Ms. Melba Rendon (Ecuador), and Southern Cone zone—Mrs. Blanca Gomez (Uruguay). The ICLDF representative from Latin America is Pedro Torres (Mexico) who coordinated all. At their meeting, they decided to be called COFALC (Consejo de las Fraternidades Laicales Dominicanas de America Latina y el Caribe). Their former name of LAIDAL (Laicado Dominicano de America Latina y el Caribe) will become the network of all types of Dominican laity groups, to which COFALC will belong, as well as others like Associates, Confraternities, etc.

I am sure Laurie Biszko will be able to provide further information on our work as ICLDF. And I understand that Pedro Torres from COFALC will also be attending your meeting, in which case he can certainly add lots of news, too.

I will try to send a file on the role of the Religious Assistant, which was a draft prepared by fr. Thomas Johnston, OP, when he was provincial promoter of the Central Province. Something like this *(turn to page 7)*

## *HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CHAPTERS*

### **ALBUQUERQUE, NM NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LAS MONTAÑAS PRO-CHAPTER**

A November retreat-dialogue with secular Franciscans was given by Franciscan Fr. Jack Robinson Clark and Dominican Fr. Mike Demkovich on their foundings, charisms, missions, and commonalties.

### **BAY CITY, MI BL. JOHN DOMINICI CHAPTER**

Provincial Promoter Fr. Jim Motl and President Ruth Kummer made a November 10 chapter visitation.

### **DENVER, CO ST. DOMINIC CHAPTER**

A February 7 and 8 retreat, "Feast of Prayer in a Hungry World," featured scriptural reflections with a meal theme by Spiritual Director Fr. Bob Staes, OP and their fellow chapter member presenters.

### **DUBUQUE, IA ST. ROSE OF LIMA CHAPTER**

**Sick:** Elayne Breitbach and Mary Teeling

**Deceased:** Florence O'Brien on December 27, 2003

They welcomed Josephine Campobello, transferring from St. Peter Martyr Chapter, Rockford, IL. At their January meeting, they completed their study of *Set Aside Every Fear*.

### **FARMINGTON HILLS, MI BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPTER**

**Sick:** Alice Bechard

Provincial Promoter Fr. Jim Motl and President Ruth Kummer made a November 9 chapter visitation.

### **MILWAUKEE, WI QUEEN OF THE ROSARY CHAPTER**

**Sick:** Marcie Boyer

### **MINNEAPOLIS, MN HOLY ROSARY CHAPTER**

**Sick:** Mary McDermott

**Deceased:** Helen Kessler, St. Paul, MN

### **RIVER FOREST, IL ST. VINCENT FERRER CHAPTER**

**Received:** Andres Botuyan, Nancy Daumke, Mary Kubacki, Mike Pollard, Carmen Rodriguez and Delores Sullivan on March 7

**Sick:** Kay Watson

### **ST. LOUIS, MO QUEEN OF THE HOLY ROSARY CHAPTER**

**Received:** Michael Porterfield on February 1

**Final Profession:** Ellen Caffrey on February 1

**Deceased:** Ruby Bogdanovich on January 7 (received February 2, 1964; professed June 13, 1965)

A March 7 Lenten Day of Recollection was directed by Fr. Joachim Culotta, OP.

### **SPRINGFIELD, IL OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART CHAPTER**

**Sick:** George Eck

### **OUR PRIVATE MEMBERS**

**Sick:** Jill O'Brien's mother, sister, and brother-in-law, Chicago, IL; Rose Barbarossa, Hanover Park, IL

**Deceased:** Marion Keegan's sister, Lucille, on December 5, 2003; and Helen C. Lauer, St. Cloud, MN, on December 13, 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 March 25-28, 2004 Provincial Council meeting

## DOMINICAN LITURGICAL CALENDAR

### March 2004

- 14- **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**, Hours Week III  
 21- **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**, Hours Week IV  
 25- The Annunciation of the Lord (S)  
 28- **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**, Hours Week I

### April 2004

- 4- **Palm Sunday**, Hours Week II  
 8- Holy Thursday  
 9- Good Friday  
 10- Holy Saturday  
 11- **Easter Sunday (S)**, Hours Week I  
 13- Bl. Margaret of Costello, lay Dominican  
 18- **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (S)**,  
 Hours Week II  
 20- St. Agnes of Montepulciano, virgin  
 25- **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**, Hours Week III  
 27- Bl. Osanna of Kotor, lay Dominican  
 29- St. Catherine of Siena, lay Dominican/  
 doctor (F)  
 30- St. Pius V, pope (M)

### May 2004

- 2- **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**, Hours Week IV  
 4- Bl. Emily Bicchieri, religious  
 5- St. Vincent Ferrer, priest (M)  
 7- Bl. Albert of Bergamo, lay Dominican  
 8- Patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 over the entire Order of Preachers  
 9- **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**, Hours Week I  
 10- St. Antoninus of Florence, bishop (M)  
 13- Bl. Imelda Lambertini, religious  
 15- Bl. Andrew Abellon, priest  
   - Bl. Giles of Portugal, priest  
 16- **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**, Hours Week II  
 21- Bl. Columba of Rieti, religious  
   - Bl. Hyacinthe-Marie Cormier, priest  
 23- **The Ascension of the Lord (S)**, Hours  
 Week III

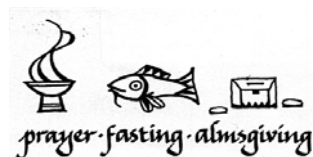
- 24- Translation of Holy Father Dominic  
 (M)  
 27- Bl. Andrew Franchi, bishop  
 28- Bl. Mary Bartholomew Bagnesi, lay  
 Dominican  
 29- Bl. William Arnaud, priest, and com-  
 panions, martyrs  
 30- **Pentecost Sunday (S)**, Hours Week I  
 31- The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin (F)

### June 2004

- 4- St. Peter of Verona, priest/martyr (M)  
 6- **Most Holy Trinity (S)**, Hours Week II  
 8- Bls. Diana and Cecilia, religious (OM)  
 10- Bl. John Dominici, bishop (OM)  
 12- Bl. Stephen Bandelli, priest  
 13- **The Most Holy Body and Blood of  
 Christ (S)**, Hours Week III  
 18- **Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (S)**  
 19- Immaculate Heart of Mary (M)  
 20- **12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**,  
 Hours Week IV  
 24- **The Nativity of John the Baptist (S)**  
 27- **13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**,  
 Hours Week I  
 29- **SS. Peter and Paul (S)**

### July 2004

- 4- **14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**,  
 Hours Week II  
 8- Bl. Adrian Fortescue, lay Dominican/  
 martyr  
 9- St. John of Cologne, priest/martyr, and  
 his companions, martyrs (M)  
 (S) Solemnity; (F) Feast; (M) Memorial  
 (OM) Opt. Memorial; \* Office for the  
 Dead



**THANKSGIVING AFTER MASS: PRAYER OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS**

Lord, Father all-powerful and ever-living God, I thank you, for even though I am a sinner, your unprofitable servant, not because of my worth but in the kindness of your mercy, you have fed me with the precious body and blood of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray that this holy communion may not bring me condemnation and punishment but forgiveness and salvation.

May it be a helmet of faith and a shield of good will.

May it purify me from evil ways and put an end to my evil passions.

May it bring me charity and patience, humility and obedience, and growth in the power to do good.

May it be my strong defense against all my enemies, visible and invisible,

and the perfect calming of all my evil impulses, bodily and spiritual.

May it unite me more closely to you, the one true God,

and lead me safely through death to everlasting happiness with you.

And I pray that you will lead me, a sinner, to the banquet where you,

with your Son and Holy Spirit, are true and perfect light, total fulfillment, everlasting joy,

gladness without end, and perfect happiness to your saints.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**LENTEN PETITIONS FOR IRAQ**

The Iraq Coordinating Committee of the North American Dominican Promoters of Justice, Peace, and Care of Creation respectfully requests that the Dominican Family please pray the following petitions for Lent to show our solidarity with our Dominican Family in Iraq.

Week One: For the people of Iraq as they continue to rebuild their country. May the peace and justice they long for become the foundation for their new government, we pray.

Week Two: For the children of Iraq. May they receive adequate water, food, shelter, and security as their nation searches for the resources to fill basic needs, we pray.

Week Three: For the people of Iraq that they be healed and strengthened and comforted from loss and grief resulting from the recent war in their country, we pray.

Week Four: For the restoration of Iraq as the country emerges from war. May peace prevail and justice be provided and preserved for each citizen, we pray.

Week Five: For those involved in peacekeeping in Iraq. May they be strengthened in compassion and deepened in hope as they bear the burdens of creating a peaceful place in a troubled land, we pray.

Holy Week: For those who are commissioned to make decisions for the rebuilding of Iraq. May they be filled with wisdom and have hearts that are peace-filled, we pray.

**On March 20 at 12 noon**, please join the sisters, friars and Laity in Iraq in praying the Dominican Blessing, either alone or as part of the Angelus, for peace and stability in their country.

**A DOMINICAN BLESSING**

May God the Creator bless us.

May God the Redeemer send his healing among us.

May God the Holy Spirit move within us and give us

Eyes to see with, ears to hear with, and hands that your work might be done.

May we walk and preach the word of God to all.

May the angel of peace watch over us and lead us at last,  
by God's grace, to the Kingdom. Amen

## **International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities—ICLDF**

Santa Sabina, Rome—The second annual meeting of the ICLDF was held May 22-27, 2003 at Santa Sabina, Rome. Presiding was Fr. Jerry Stookey OP, Promoter of the Laity. Participants were as follows: Africa—Emmanuel Afrifa, Europe—Patricia Robinson, Latin America—Pedro Torres, Asia Pacific—Rowena Gonzales, and North America—Laurie Biszko (voted and participated by phone/internet when flight was cancelled on the day of departure).

Priorities discussed were the establishment of an international office with a secretary; the approval of an operating budget/funding and finances; public relations, our relationship with the Dominican Family; an International Congress; and standardized terminology.

**Human Rights from page 1** as bearers of God's image, everyone is given an identity within the global family. This common bond of humanity creates a mutual responsibility for each other and for the whole of creation. (Micah: 6:8) Human rights constitute a response to the demands of justice and the fulfillment of human needs. Additionally, they represent the obligations and the responsibility of the international community to promote justice and peace worldwide.

As people of faith, we join with others in celebrating this anniversary and in reflecting on its implications. However, we recognize with realism that we are living in a time when human rights are more often battered than respected and when their violation is frequently justified in a manner that is contrary to the basic principles of the Declaration and of international human rights law. We live in a time when the deaths of civilians in war are considered "collateral damage" and the killing of soldiers by members of their own allied forces is called "friendly fire." We live as well in a time when sanctions against a people were maintained for more than a decade even though millions of women and children died as a result. We also witness daily the violation of the civil rights of citizens who are incarcerated without trial or due process of law. Most dauntingly, we know that the inequalities and inequities, which exist in countless countries, maintain millions of people in a state of poverty and desperation, which violates a fundamental article of the Declaration that "every-one has the right to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being and that of their family." (Article 25)

The principle of the universality of human rights was re-affirmed by UN member states in the Vienna Declaration adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights on June 25, 1993. The Vienna Declaration affirms that "all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms." (No. 5)

As a Christian community, we are called, both institutionally and individually, to recognize that our silence, our inaction and even our actions may have contributed to the oppression of peoples and individuals. This impels us to work constantly and with perseverance for justice worldwide, in solidarity with our brothers and sisters. Moreover, it motivates us both to speak truth with fortitude and to act with courage when we encounter injustice and violations of human rights.

*from www.un.op.org*

**Promoter General's Letter from page 3** "job description" of the Religious Assistant needs discussion, improvement, and eventually some sort of acceptance by LDF's around the world.

There are small committees to review the English and Spanish translations of the Laity Rule, since so many countries have had problems with correct interpretation. These will be finished soon. They are strict translations from the Latin, and the Master will approve them. It is not about changing anything in the Rule. That will be up to the Laity at some future congress. However, we have serious mistranslations and interpretations going around and "official" translations from the Latin will be promulgated, since it seems that that did not happen at the time of the new Rule's promulgation in 1987.

There is so much more to tell you or to discuss, including thoughts about "What is DLIPC?" which I see on your agenda. However, I think enough said on my part. I will leave the rest to you, who are wonderfully responsible leaders of your Dominican Laity provinces. I am at your service as best I can, and do not hesitate to contact me for help.

Dominican hugs all around!

Your brother in St. Dominic and St. Catherine,

fr. Gerald Stookey, OP, Promoter General of the Dominican Laity

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING'S ABBREVIATED MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 13, 2003**

Chairperson Mary Lee Odders, Treasurer of the Provincial Council, called the meeting to order. Present: Ruth Kummer, President of the Provincial Council; Fr. James Motl, Provincial Promoter; Wesley Lohr, elected member [St. Louis Chapter]; and Ed Shea, appointed member [Farmington Hills Chapter]. Mary Lee proposed an agenda, which was approved as amended.

The Committee discussed a draft of Finance Committee Bylaws prepared by Fr. Jim Motl and distributed to Committee members before the meeting. **Ruth moved to accept the Bylaws as amended. Ed seconded. Unanimously passed.**

The Committee discussed a draft of an Investment Policy for Dominican Laity, Province of St. Albert the Great, U.S.A., prepared by Fr. Jim Motl and distributed to Committee members before the meeting. **Wes moved acceptance of the revised Investment Policy. Ruth seconded. Unanimously accepted.**

The 2002-'03 Financial Report and 2003-'04 Budget were reviewed. Mary Lee reported that the value of the Irvine bequest has grown from \$195,103.87 to \$200,151.90. A comparison of 2002-'03 ordinary income, i.e., income not generated by the Irvine bequest, with income from the previous year shows a drop of 20-25% in most categories. Of special concern is the loss of over \$1,200 in dues. Mary Lee explained that this parallels a loss of people receiving *Challenge*. Seventy-seven names were dropped from the mailing list after they did not respond to a request for information about whether they wished to continue receiving the publication. This left 217 Dominican Laity still receiving the quarterly newsletter. She said that she assumes that this represents the number of members still able to respond to the request and still able to remain in contact in some way with Dominican Laity on the Provincial level. After reviewing the budget proposed for [July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004], Mary Lee said that by cutting expenses she was able to arrive at a balanced budget even with a drop in ordinary income, so **Mary Lee moved that membership dues for 2003-'04 not be raised. Ed seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously concurred.** In light of the decrease in membership and its impact on finances, **Ed moved that the Finance Committee recommend to the Provincial Council that it establish a Membership Committee to investigate ways of promoting, on the provincial level, membership in the Dominican Laity. Wes seconded and suggested that this committee contact the other provinces about what they are doing in this regard. Unanimously approved.** Ed volunteered to investigate the implications of designating funds as endowments for tax purposes. Mary Lee observed that at present for tax-exemption status, we operate under the umbrella of "Dominicans: Province of St. Albert the Great," and use their Federal Taxpayer I.D. number with their permission.

**Mary Lee presented Edward Jones' recommendation of investing the maturing \$20,000 Fremont CD into a Capital Income Builder mutual fund. Ed moved that we accept the Jones' recommendation. Ruth seconded. The Committee unanimously approved this as a recommendation to the Provincial Council or Executive Board.** Ed volunteered to research the funds we are currently invested in for appropriateness to values of the Dominican Family. **Ed moved to include the \$1,487.11 residual payment from the Irvine bequest with the Capital Income Builder fund. Mary Lee seconded. Unanimously approved.**

**Mary Lee presented a Funding Proposal Form for utilizing Irvine bequest interest. The Committee accepted this form without revision.**

Mary Lee presented a first draft of Guidelines for Approving Funding Proposals. Discussion followed. **Ed moved that the Committee recommend the revised Guidelines for Approving Funding Proposals to the Provincial Council. Mary Lee seconded the motion of approval. Acceptance was unanimous.**

Mary Lee presented a proposal for Approval and Administration of Funding Proposals from Bequest Interest. Discussion followed. **Ruth moved the acceptance of the revised Approval and Administration of Funding Proposals for the Bequest Interest. Ed seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously recommended the document to the Provincial Council.**

Members agreed that more information should be sought on what is involved in seeking and maintaining a tax-exempt status and that the matter be referred to the Executive Board.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR FUND DRIVE CONTRIBUTIONS**

Ambrose Dolan, Mary Solem, Joan and Robert Engel, and Raymund Williams. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## WHERE HAS THE TIME GONE?

The search has begun for the next editor of the Dominican Laity newsletter, *Challenge*. In the summer of 1998, following a hiatus caused by the illness of long-time editor, Brother Regis Hovald, OP, the newsletter you are reading was reprised under my editorship. *Challenge* is published quarterly on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1.

Currently, *Challenge* is formatted in MS Publisher '98, but could easily be updated to MS Publisher 2000. A successful candidate needs to be familiar with MS Publisher, have an e-mail account, and be able to meet a deadline. The editor is responsible for editing, arranging publication, and mailing each issue. While the work involved can be accomplished at one's own pace, the editor needs to review sources of Dominican information, e.g., monthly Chapter Meeting Report Forms, other provinces' Dominican Laity newsletters, the monthly *I.D.I. (International Dominican Information)* magazine, the annual *Liturgical Calendar for the Order of Preachers*, and online sites. The provincial budget covers newsletter production and mailing costs.

According to Laity Provincial Bylaws, the Publication Editor is appointed by the Executive Board based on capabilities and willingness to serve. The editorship is a three-year term and may be re-appointed for a second term. The Publication Editor is a voting member of the Provincial Council and is, therefore, asked to attend Provincial Council meetings held every 18 months. The province covers travel, room and board expenses associated with Provincial Council meeting attendance.

All paper files and computer files used in newsletter preparation will be transferred to the new editor with thorough explanations. This current editor will remain cheerfully available for future questions.

Interested or need more information? Please write me at the Dominican Laity Office address on page 1.

**Mary Lee Odders**

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**Racine WI 53408-5451**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**