

CHALLENGE



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HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: COMMISSION ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Geneva—In his April 27 closing address to the 2004 Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, the Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights, Bertrand G. Ramcharan, described the achievements of the Commission as well as the challenges it faces to meet the demands made upon it. For example, he recognized the decision of the Commission to establish the position of Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings especially women and girls.

“Our world is one in which conflicts, especially internal conflicts, are preva-

lent. In a number of decisions you have effectively elaborated a policy on ensuring respect for human rights and humanitarian law during armed conflicts. You have adopted decisions on several country situations where there has been

conflict in the recent past. A notable exception is the situation in Iraq. It is a perplexing and troubling omission. There must be accountability in warfare. At this point in time there is no international monitoring of the human rights situation in Iraq, whether it be in respect of terrorism or

"If you ever dilute the protection role of the Commission, history's judgment will be harsh. For it is the peoples who suffer when there is silence in the face of atrocities. The call of the peoples of the world is for 'No more silence.'"
- Bertrand G. Ramcharan

DOMINICANS BEGIN FAST FOR PEACE AGAIN

Joyce Calagos, OPL of the Western Province, invites you to join U.S. Dominicans in their renewed effort to Pray and to Fast for Peace in Iraq. The Western Province's Dominican Laity will be praying and fasting for peace in Iraq on Tuesdays, May 30-June 30. But, you are welcome to pray and fast for peace in Iraq as often as you choose.

Dominican Prayer for Iraq

O God of Peace, of Justice, and of Healing we pray for the people of Iraq. We pray for their safety, security, the restoration of the country and of the wellbeing of each person. We pray that peace be restored.

We pray for Wisdom and Right Judgment for all the leaders who are responsible for decision making.

We pray for Courage and Understanding for all communities of Iraq and those working in the country that they put aside their differences and come to focus on the common good.

We pray for Counsel for those who are establishing and will be part of the new government of Iraq that they seek to serve the needs of all the people.

We pray for Fortitude for those who will confront the unjust activities and violence taking place within Iraq during recent months.

We pray for all those who are suffering the effects of war. May they be filled with Courage, Fear of the Lord and Consolation as they endure the harsh realities of violence.

We pray for Knowledge for those commissioned to research and assist the decision makers who need the best information to make decisions regarding needs of the people.

We pray with our Dominican Family in union with Dominic and Catherine that the Holy Spirit lavish the people of Iraq with Her gifts.

Amen.

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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

As I write this page on the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I have just returned from a week of retreat at our provincial house of St. Pius Priory in Chicago. The focus of the retreat was the gifts of the Holy Spirit, a fitting subject on the week before Pentecost. I can't share with you all the insights I gained during this time of preaching and prayer, but for those of you who memorized the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit as children, it will come as no surprise to hear that the retreat began with "fear of the Lord" and ended with "wisdom." The strongest message that came to me during this retreat was that these gifts of the Holy Spirit are necessary helps given us by God to assist us in our daily living of the Christian virtues that form us for life in God's Kingdom. This is the Kingdom Jesus came to preach and that we are sent to preach through our words and deeds. St. Thomas Aquinas says that wisdom helps us to live the supreme virtue of charity. Given our contemporary understanding of wisdom and charity, that sounds like a strange combination. Wisdom, after all, has to do with the head and charity with the heart, don't they? Both, however, are closely aligned with the central lesson Jesus came to teach us through his passion, death, and resurrection. The wisdom of Jesus that St. Paul talks about, which is foolishness to those who don't believe in Jesus, is that being Son of God, he came down to serve (Philippians 2: 6-7). He died that we might be restored to a relationship with God that we had lost through sin. The motive for this "foolishness" is God's love for us (1 Corinthians 1: 27). For us to live in the love of God (charity), we must be "wise" and God is. We must see that God's self-sacrificing love shown us in Jesus is the norm for our own living, so that the Kingdom of God is more present in our world.

This wisdom of self-sacrificing love is at the heart of our lives as preachers. We, like Jesus, are called to live and die so that others can see in us what God is like. All four "pillars" of our Dominican life should be directed to opening ourselves to this gift of the Holy Spirit. Our prayer and study should be focused on opening our hearts and minds to God's wisdom of pouring ourselves out for the love of God and other human beings. Our chapter life should be structured so that we have the opportunity to give ourselves to one another in community and to others in mission. In our recent visitation to the chapters, Ruth and I found that often prayer, study, and community are fairly strong. A community sense of mission is often less well defined, however. Many individual members of chapters are doing outstanding work supporting the work of the Dominican Family and of the Church. Sometimes other members of a chapter are unaware of that work, however. St. Dominic's insistence that community be an essential part of his Order of Preachers came from his own discovery of the need for support from others for carrying out the preaching task.

I believe that we ought to take time in our chapter meetings to talk about the work we are doing to advance the Kingdom of God, to pray for one another's efforts, and to offer what support we can to one another. We pray for eternal rest for our deceased members. We pray for ailing members of our chapters. Should we not also pray for one another's missionary efforts in spreading the Gospel? Our mission may be offering our physical sufferings for the salvation of others. Should we not be praying, not just for healing for our sick members, but also for their perseverance in Christ's work of suffering for others? Another's mission may be teaching. Should we not be sharing the successes and failures of our efforts with other members of our chapters, so that they can pray for God's guidance in our educational mission? Our evangelical work may be caring for others at home or in institutional facilities. Should we not share with one another our concerns and pressures, so that other Dominicans might support us in the service we give to others? I do not suggest diverting large amounts of meeting times to sharing our personal lives. I think, however, that Dominican Laity could focus more intensely on being aware of the missionary aspect of their lives through greater awareness of one another's efforts at spreading the Good News of God's love for the world and through praying for one another's work toward this goal. Such awareness and prayer could also lead to some chapter-based missionary efforts. This has happened in some places, and I applaud it. I encourage others to be interested in and support the efforts of other chapter members in preaching the Good News. When it is possible, try to find ways of working together in pursuing the mission of the Order of Preachers.

It is with great joy that I announce that we are in the process of establishing a new chapter of Lay Dominicans in Denver for people who speak Vietnamese. Since there are already six finally professed members and nine simply professed members, there is no need to delay recognizing the newly-formed Queen of Martyrs Chapter as part of our provincial family. Translating our materials into Vietnamese will pose a difficulty, but the group has a Vietnamese Dominican sister who is proficient in English and will act as their Spiritual Director. This group has already made a sizeable donation to the Family Helping Family project to which many chapters and individuals of our Province have also contributed. The fund now stands at over \$3,000, and we are investigating ways to safely deliver money to Lay Dominicans in Iraq. I thank you all for your generosity, especially Cindy Ricard of the St. Louis Chapter and Barry McQuillan of the Western Province who initiated the project.

FROM THE PRESIDENT
by Ruth Kummer, Central Provincial President of the Dominican Laity

As the spring flowers updated us from winter, so do we renew our call of Pentecost to be Christ extended in time as followers of St. Dominic.

* * *

Fr. James Motl and I have completed all of the chapter visitations. The gracious hospitality in homes, convents, and priories, and even, the weather, airports, train or long treks by car made each visitation an enriching event. The rhythm of life of each chapter gave a unique presentation, be it the needs of parents and/or children, risking a change in career with the unknown, poor personal health, aging, new life, or learning a new language and culture. Each one gives courage to continue our Dominican vocation.

* * *

The Dominican Laity Inter Provincial Council met from February 19-22 in Arizona. We lived the four pillars of praying – Liturgy and Christian Prayer. Fr Gerald Austin provided the study content and a fine bibliography (available for the Formation Chairperson). Members of local chapters shared with the community their time, talent, art/banners and nourishment.

Our Canadian and Mexican brothers and sisters shared their Dominican experience. Mr. Pedro Torres is one International Delegate for Laity and will represent Laity at the General Chapter meeting in Krakow, Poland from mid-July to mid-August.

The leadership of the Western Province has done outstanding work on a Formation Program. Details regarding this program will come later from the Provincial Council meeting.

* * *

To the question, “Are we growing?” the answer is “Yes.” During our visit in Michigan, Fr. Motl and I visited Fr. Yasso of the Chaldean community, who has been the Spiritual Assistant to over a hundred Lay Dominicans. Also, Fr. Yasso attended the opening of the Provincial Council in Plymouth, MI along with members of their community. I will be spending time with them at their meetings.

The Grand Rapids Chapter has been re-established after a hiatus of some years.

In the Denver area, a group of Vietnamese Dominicans are growing with the help of the St. Dominic Chapter Moderator, Jim Steffens. A Vietnamese sister is acting as a translator.

The first members of the West Lafayette Informal Group made first profession. Congratulations! Fr. James Barnett was the Professed Dominican receiving their first professions. About every six months, the group sends a “call out” inviting new inquirers to join their group.

* * *

The Provincial Council met at St. John’s Center for Youth and Family in Plymouth, MI [in March.] Due to space limitations here, ask your delegate to see a copy of the agenda. [The Provincial Council abbreviated minutes will be included in the Autumn 2004 *Challenge*.] Ask questions about formation, finance, and Inter Provincial proceedings. How can we generate funds to support our mission especially preaching and support staff to administer that mission? All attendees are to be commended for their grasp of issues and constructive input. It was a pleasure to work with the Council.

After the meeting, the Executive Council met. More details are to follow at another date.

* * *

The development of a Secretariat, an organizational change of Dominicans stemming from an earlier General Chapter of the Friars, is underway. In October 2003 in Springfield, IL, 16 members of the U.S. Dominicans met in conversation regarding the Dominican Family, represented by four nuns, four friars, four laity, and four sisters. As a new concept is presented, a variety of points of view require sorting and ownership. Half of the group met in April 2004 to study models and write a draft copy to be presented to the entire group in October 2004.

* * *

An insight that has been haunting is a symbol that speaks of Dominican Laity. With St Dominic, our founder, and St Catherine, our model, a combination of the two has been suggested. A member of a chapter discussed being part of a casting of a new image of the idea, and the concept was placed in a creative pocket to be developed.

While attending a conference for Spiritual Directors, an artisan’s work was on display. With a flyer in hand, I placed it in the “to do” box. The flyer kept rising to the top of projects or falling out. On the last appearance of the flyer, I called the artist. He was not available because he was in Siena, St. Catherine’s hometown, waiting for a sculpture of her to arrive for a celebration of its installation. Prior to my call, his manager had just spoken to him from Canada.

Is the time here to express our identity?

Again, we are the spirit of Pentecost in the 21st Century.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CHAPTERS

ALBUQUERQUE, NM NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LAS MONTAÑAS PRO-CHAPTER

Members are asking for prayers as many of them are experiencing life changes.

ANN ARBOR, MI ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA INFORMAL GROUP

Sick: Barbara Parsons

BAY CITY, MI BL. JOHN DOMINICI CHAPTER

They are discerning how to attract younger members.

DENVER, CO ST. DOMINIC CHAPTER

Sick: Jim Bacon, Valerie Horner, and Edisa Vest

Their chapter met with The Queen of Vietnamese Martyrs Chapter of Wheat Ridge, CO and will collaborate in formation and organization. The Vietnamese Lay Dominicans have received their documentation of formation status: six are finally professed and four are first professed.

DUBUQUE, IA ST. ROSE OF LIMA CHAPTER

Sick: Dorothy Shanahan

Died: Lorraine Heisler on April 13

Their new chapter study is the encyclical on the Eucharist in relationship to the church.

FARMINGTON HILLS, MI BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPTER

Received: Lynn Tomlinson on March 14

Final Profession: Ed Shea on March 14 and Ed Kolodziej on April 4

Congratulations: Chapter Secretary Lynn Tomlinson

Sick: Alice Bechard, Cynthia Dulay, and Barbara Ann Neely

They provided the hospitality for the Provincial Council meeting, March 25-28 in Plymouth, MI.

MILWAUKEE, WI QUEEN OF THE ROSARY CHAPTER

Sick: Marcie Boyer

MINNEAPOLIS, MN HOLY ROSARY CHAPTER

Died: Mary Doherty

The chapter viewed and discussed the video, "Our Lady of Guadalupe: Virgin for Our Times."

RIVER FOREST, IL ST. VINCENT FERRER CHAPTER

Received: Andres Botuyan, Betty Carr, Nancy Daumke Mary Kubacki, Mike Pollard and Delores Sullivan on June 12

First Profession: Cynthia Halgard on June 12

Congratulations: Moderator Guy Murphy, Vice Moderator Virgil Kolb, Secretary Vicia (Bess) Torralba, and Treasurer Bill Watson

Sick: Kay Watson

Died: Olga Allegretti

The group project for the year will be for all members as a chapter to organize a Day of Reflection.

ROCKFORD, IL ST. PETER MARTYR CHAPTER

Received: Adeline Mentele on October 12, 2003; Andrea Leggo and Joseph Wong on March 13, 2004

Died: John Osbourne (final profession on August 8, 1996) on May 10 and Dr. Thomas Starshak (final profession in 1960s) on April 6

The four pillars of Dominican Spirituality are being studied by this chapter.

ST. LOUIS, MO QUEEN OF THE HOLY ROSARY CHAPTER

Congratulations: Native St. Louisan, Sister Violet Marie Kuster, OP turned 100 years old on March 5. She worked for many years with the St. Louis Dominican Laity chapter and was a longtime teacher at St. Mark's Academy in North St. Louis from 1933 to 1958, serving as principal for six years. A birthday celebration honoring her life and her more than 80 years of service as a Dominican Sister of Sparkill, NY, took place March 4 at the Sparkill Dominican Motherhouse, where Sister is the oldest living member of the community and has the most years of service.

SPRINGFIELD, IL OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART CHAPTER

Sick: George Eck

WEST LAFAYETTE, IN ST. MARY MAGDALENE INFORMAL GROUP

Received: Thomas Ryba on May 16

First Profession: Joseph Borowitz, Marlene Laurendeau, Normand Laurendeau, and David Wirth on May 16

Congratulations: Moderator Normand Laurendeau, Vice Moderator David Wirth, Secretary/Treasurer Marlene Laurendeau, and Provincial Council Delegate Kathleen Wagner
They are studying *Catholic Christianity* by P. J. Kreeft.

OUR PRIVATE MEMBERS

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

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
- the success of the Peace, Justice and Care of Creation meeting in June
- the success of the General Chapter of the Friars, mid-July to mid-August, in Krakow, Poland

**RESOLUTIONS ACCEPTED AT THE INTERPROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING,
RACINE, WISCONSIN, JULY 25-28, 2002**

Resolution: Resolved that the Lay Dominicans in the Provincial Council follow appropriate means of collaboration within the Dominican Family other than membership in the Dominican Leadership Conference (DLC)—Dover Meeting

Resolution: To send a letter stating that we have changed our goals, and [DLC's] goals are not compatible with our needs at this time. Our efforts are being directed to setting up our International Office to strengthen our Lay Dominicans worldwide. We thank you for your invitation to join as affiliates, but we do not think that at this time, we would be fulfilling our goals as an organization. We are open to explore other appropriate means of collaboration and sharing resources in the future. **Vote:** Unanimous

Resolution: Resolved that the Provincial Council President from each of the provinces represent Lay Dominicans at the initial planning meeting. **Vote:** Unanimous

Resolution: The Dominican Laity InterProvincial Council (DLIPC) supports the establishment of an independent legal entity for the International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities (ICLDF), which would be capable of establishing a nonprofit entity. **Vote:** Passed

Resolution: That each province will identify and appoint a Promoter of Peace and Justice from among the Laity, who will join the Sister/Friar Promoters and the National Commission. **Vote:** Unanimous

Resolution: That the Provincial Promoter of Peace and Justice of the hosting province be present at the Dominican Laity InterProvincial Council (DLIPC) meeting. **Vote:** Unanimous

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING'S ABBREVIATED MINUTES, OCTOBER 24-27, 2002

Editor's note: The transcription of the minutes was limited by audio taping technical difficulties. At the March 2004 Provincial Council meeting, the minutes were approved as amended. Please contact your Provincial Council Delegate to read a copy of the complete minutes.

At the Siena Center in Racine, Wisconsin, the meeting opened at 7:00 PM with a welcome and introductions by President Ruth Kummer and an opening prayer led by Sharon Huizenga. Fr. James Motl, OP spoke on Catholic Preaching in American Culture, a program he attended in Philadelphia. The Milwaukee Chapter provided hospitality.

On Friday morning, October 25, President Ruth Kummer called the meeting to order. **A motion to approve the June 2001 minutes** passed.

A thank you note was received from Fr. Jerry Stookey, Promoter General of the Dominican Laity, for a memorial gift on the occasion of his father's death. Karen Sabourin has tendered her resignation as Executive Secretary due to illness. **A motion to make a \$50 contribution to the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament, Farmington Hills, Michigan in appreciation of Karen Sabourin's dedication to the needs of the Provincial Laity Office** passed unanimously.

Treasurer Mary Lee Odders reviewed the financial report as of October 1, 2002: checking account \$1,648.33; investments \$22,560.88—Fidelity Investments Money Market Fund (savings from checking account) \$5,532.05 and Edward Jones Investments (formerly cash pool) \$17,028.83—; for a sum total of assets of \$24,209.21. Large budget expenditures were noted: \$1,613 for Interprovincial Council meeting's room and board as the hosting province; \$1,000 to the International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities (ICLDF); \$100 memorial gift to Fr. Gerald Stookey to defray travel expenses related to his father's death. Budget footnotes explained larger expenses.

The province income stream consists of dues, Fund Drive and interest on investment of savings formerly in a cash pool. A Fidelity Investments Money Market Fund houses our savings transferred from our checking account. An Edward Jones Investments' 5-year plan approved by the Executive Board manages our savings formerly held in the Dominican Province Cash Pool but returned to us on August 1, 2002.

Mr. Richard Irvine left the Dominican Laity of the Province of St. Albert the Great a two-fold bequest. A pension plan, which returns to us \$95.82 per month, from June 1, 2001 to July 1, 2010. Mary Lee Odders has arranged for a direct deposit of this money into our checking account. The second benefit was a direct cash payment from a living trust in the amount of \$193,326.54 made on December 27, 2001 to "The Third Order of St. Dominic, Dominican Central Province." Dominicans: Province of St. Albert the Great deposited this check.

Mary Lee Odders stated that in a letter accompanying the bank check, the estate's attorney Ronald J. Detzer wrote, "Mr. Richard R. Irvine's gift is designated and intended for only capital building improvements. It is not to be used for payroll or other administrative purposes." A copy of the living trust was requested and received by Father Dave Wright, OP for a review of the wording of this restriction. (Please note the time line in the associated memo.)¹ Dominicans' Provincial Financial Secretary Nancy Burke placed the money in an interest-bearing account at the time the check was received.

The Executive Board, Fr. Jim Motl and the Prior Provincial had a meeting on April 27 for a review of the living trust, and no restrictive wording was found. A letter to Attorney Detzer requesting clarification of his stated restrictive clause was authored by Fr. David Wright and approved by the Executive Board. Fr. Dave Wright's letter went unanswered, as did repeated follow-up phone calls. On September 26, Fr. Dave Wright sent Mr. Detzer a registered letter stating that if no response was received by October 28, we would follow the directive of the living trust. On October 18, a response was received by Fr. Dave Wright. Mr. Detzer stated that the restriction came from a personal conversation between the estate executor and Mr. Irvine, where he expressed his wish that the bequest not be used for daily operating expenses but for something more substantive. Mr. Detzer suggested our following good judgement and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Dave Wright said he would have Nancy Burke issue a check to the Dominican Laity for the bequest amount and the accrued interest. At this time, the check has not been received. Mary Lee Odders said, "God bless Mr. Irvine. Although we did not know him, he is certainly benefiting the Dominican Laity in death."

Ruth Kummer related, "Mr. Irvine was a convert, worked in the military, and lived in the Washington, D.C. area. When he retired, he moved to St. Mary's Parish, National City, CA, near San Diego. As the parish administrator, he was well-versed in Scripture and canon law. St. Mary's was not prepared for his death, as he was in charge of the Diocesan Fund Drive, and he was a master at gathering those funds. He had no family. His estate executor, Sandra Reynolds, was taking care of his financial needs. He was very well loved in his parish. Here is a Lay Dominican, who taught the gospel in his life, and his life story is an example for us."

A discussion ensued on the proper use of this bequest plus interest. Mary Lee Odders presented two Edward Jones Investments' proposals for income-generating investments with diversification. Investments would be supervised by Edward Jones' Representative Brenda Hagert in Racine, Wisconsin, at this time. (turn to page 7)

Option A - a more diversified portfolio to reduce risk and produce current and future income. Income will fluctuate but has potential to grow.

Option B - a less diversified portfolio with all insured or government agency-backed investments

Mary Lee Odders distributed investment option descriptions for Council members' consideration. The proposed use of this income, but not the principal, could provide: 1) education and training for chapter officers and membership both chapter and private, 2) to provide educational inserts in the *Challenge* newsletter, and 3) funding Provincial Council in-service meetings and speakers. Further discussion was tabled until members could review the distributed material.

Ruth Kummer suggested that Ed Shea, a Lay Dominican of the Farmington Hills, MI chapter and Vice President of Information Systems and Services of General Motors, be appointed to the Finance Committee. His experience with a non-profit organization would be helpful. Ruth Kummer called for additional names of individuals, who could actively participate and advise. Mary Lee Odders stated that the Finance Committee could utilize conference calls in lieu of meeting face-to-face.

Ruth Kummer stated that she and Fr. Jim Motl would be making chapter visitations. Ruth Kummer stated she expects the Finance Committee to set guidelines for the chapters' accounting and the reporting of their finances.

Fr. Jim requested an article about Mr. Irvine for website inclusion or *Challenge* newsletter publication. Ruth Kummer stated estate executor, Sandra Reynolds, told her that she could possibly get information on Mr. Irvine from his parish, and Ruth assigned herself this task.

A motion to accept Edward Jones Investments' Option A, the more diversified portfolio, for the investment of our bequest passed unanimously.

A motion that the Finance Committee comprised of the Treasurer, President, Promoter, and appointed members review and approve investment recommendations of the professional investment representative passed unanimously

A motion that the income generated from investments of bequest monies be used for education of members, educational inserts for *Challenge*, and formation events passed with 14 in favor, 2 opposed, and 3 abstaining.

A motion that we send the Dominicans: Province of St. Albert the Great \$1,000 from our accrued interest as an expression of our profound thanks for all their help with the Irvine bequest and refurbishing of the Laity Office passed with 6 in favor, 5 opposed, and 8 abstaining.

The Bylaws of the Dominican Laity Provincial Council of the Province of St. Albert the Great were reviewed for revision. Ruth Kummer requested clarification of the Bylaws timeline for Provincial Council meetings' scheduling. If the Provincial Council met every 24 months, in the alternate year, a meeting focussing on formation and training for chapter members and leaders could be held. Suggestions for locations were mentioned, with Fr. Jim Motl suggesting that a rotating location might be used to attract people from different areas.

Mary Lee Odders stated that the last Provincial Council meeting [June 2001] suggested that the formation and training be held before the Provincial Council meetings, so individuals could also attend the council meeting. Separating the meetings would be a change in direction from previous thought.

Harvey Newcomb suggested meetings could be held much like Rotary Club meetings he has attended, where individuals meet with others holding the same office, e.g., presidents with other presidents, learning from each other.

The President's report was given. The Dominican Laity Office files are now located with other Provincial Offices at 1909 S. Ashland Avenue in Chicago. A new Central Province informal group is ready to form in West Lafayette, Indiana. Ruth Kummer and Fr. Jim Motl will visit them in November. Fr. Thomas Johnston, OP, has resigned as Central Province Promoter for the Laity, and Fr. Jim Motl, OP, has been assigned to the position. Ruth Kummer attended the meeting of the North American Promoters of Peace, Justice, and Care of Creation held in Denver in July. A handout was distributed by Ruth, with the plea that the province is looking for a layperson interested in social justice, who would be appointed as the province's Laity representative and keep us informed on social justice issues.

Ruth Kummer reported on the Dominican Laity InterProvincial Council meeting hosted by the Central Province and held in Racine, Wisconsin in July. Canada did not attend, while Promoters of the Southern Province and the Eastern Province were also unable to attend. The document on the Dominican Family written in the United States was sent to Bologna and was accepted by many other countries. The Master of the Order wants the United States' Dominican Family to develop a Secretariat representing all branches of the Family.

Chapter visitations are now being scheduled. Fr. Jim Motl wants to get to know members with a day of prayer or retreat. The discussion of the four pillars of Dominican life, prayer, community, study and ministry, as a way of living out the baptismal vocation could be used as a retreat and basis of the chapter visit.

The current Dominican Laity Rule used by the Central Province differs from that used by the Western Province and has Part 24 missing.

(turn to page 8)

October 2002 Provincial Council Abbreviated Minutes from page 7 A motion that at an Executive Council meeting, Fr. Jim Motl clarify with Vicar Provincial, Fr. David Wright, the translation of the rule and the “ex officio” and “plano ure” language question passed.

A motion that we contact the Western Province for permission to reprint some of their work, and that we publish that as a study appendix to our Rule and Guidelines to be revised in the future as further information becomes available passed. The Western Province Promoter, Fr. George Matanic, will be contacted by a committee of Fr. Jim Motl, Joe Komadina, and Ruth Kummer. This committee will select the materials to be used for the chapters and a discussion of the Rule from this perspective.

The topic of the process for dismissal of members was tabled for future discussion.

Sister Nona McGreal, OP has written the first volume on the history of the Dominicans in the United States, *The Dominicans at Home in a Young Nation: 1783-1865*. Sister Nona, as director of Project OPUS, is currently researching Volume Two, and called for historical information from chapters and members. Anyone with historical information or an interest in research is asked to contact Ruth Kummer.

Fr. Jim Motl reviewed Dominican Internet pages available. Don Kania, who maintains domlife.com, has volunteered to develop a Central Province Dominican Laity link on the www.op.org website where Fr. Albert Judy is the webfrier. Logo suggestions for our province are requested to be sent to Fr. Jim. Chapter pages would require periodic updating.

A motion that utilizing Fr. Albert Judy’s expertise, a digital camera be purchased and provided to Ruth Kummer and Fr. Jim Motl for photographs of the chapters’ membership for posting on the website passed.

Sharon Huizenga reported having difficulty organizing the formation material she was given into a Formation Handbook. Fr. Jim stated that we are committing ourselves to continual formation as a life-long process of conversion. We need a clear and unified program with distinct stages of formation, including continuing formation, goals, and guidelines to accomplish those goals. It was suggested that Fr. George Matanic, OP, Western Province Promoter of the Laity, be contacted for formation materials from the Western Province. As Formation Chairman, Sharon Huizenga was assigned to have an outline prepared by January 2003 for initial formation up to final profession.

Mary Lee Odders, editor of the province’s *Challenge* quarterly newsletter, reported that the Summer 2002 issue marked the beginning of the fifth year of the reprise of the *Challenge* under lay editorship. As of January 2002, our membership database was 472: 165 (35%) of our membership were active and 307 (65%) were private. Our newsletter circulation was 361: 62 issues to religious communities, Spiritual Directors, other newsletter editors, and such; and 299 issues to members, of whom 173 were chapter members and 126 were private members. Mary Lee updated the mailing list every two years, with August 2003 as the next scheduled update. 175 members did not receive the newsletter by request because of infirmities or because we have lost track of them. Father Albert Judy, OP faithfully posted our newsletter to the Dominican Central website www.op.org/oplaity

Chapter, Pro-chapter and Informal Groups’ reports were given—Albuquerque, New Mexico’s Nuestra Señora de las Montañas Pro-chapter: 15 members; Ann Arbor, Michigan’s St. Catherine of Siena Informal Group: 6 members; Bay City, Michigan’s Bl. John Dominic Chapter did not report; Denver, Colorado’s St. Dominic Chapter: 24 members; Dubuque, Iowa’s St. Rose of Lima Chapter: 13 members; Farmington Hills, Michigan’s Blessed Sacrament Chapter: 28 members; Milwaukee, Wisconsin’s Queen of the Rosary Chapter: 10 members; Minneapolis, Minnesota’s Holy Rosary Chapter: 26 members; River Forest, Illinois’ St. Vincent Ferrer Chapter: 8 members; Rockford, Illinois’ St. Peter Martyr Chapter: 15 members; Saint Louis, Missouri’s Queen of the Holy Rosary Chapter: 6 members; and Springfield, Illinois’ Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Chapter: 12 members.

U.N. Commission on Human Rights from page 1 in respect of the extent of the use of force and the treatment of civilians.”

Mr. Ramcharan also stated it was his intention to compile a report on the human rights situation in Iraq. He added, “To conclude, allow me to thank you all for your endeavors for human rights over the past six weeks. There are those, especially human rights non-governmental organizations, who would have wished to see stronger action in the face of serious violations of human rights in many parts of the world. You are increasingly emphasizing an ‘assistance focus’ in some situations. It will be important to keep this under review with a view to making sure that the Commission strikes a balance between cooperation and assistance on the one hand, and protection on the other. These two dimensions must go together. If you ever dilute the protection role of the Commission, history’s judgment will be harsh. For it is the peoples who suffer when there is silence in the face of atrocities. The call of the peoples of the world is for ‘No more silence.’”

from
www.un.op.org

**DLIPC 2004 IN MISSION TOGETHER
TO THE GENERAL CHAPTER, KRAKOW 2004**

Scottsdale, Arizona—**Whereas** the Rule of the Laity of the Order of Preachers (“Dominican Laity”; “Lay Dominicans”; “Fraternities”) states: (16) *Observing the prescriptions of the Directory as to qualifications for persons and time of admission, the admission of candidates is committed to the responsible layperson. Once a decisive vote of the Council of the Chapter has been given, this layperson carries out the admission according to the rite determined in the Directory, with the religious promoter present. (The Rule, 1985, as approved by the Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes – “Anything to the contrary notwithstanding” - and promulgated by Damian Byrne, OP, Master of the Order, in 1987);*

and whereas, it pertains to the communal nature of Dominican formation that any candidate for membership be attached to a chapter/fraternity;

and whereas, prior to that promulgation, it was common practice for friars, approved and commissioned by the Prior Provincial, to receive lay people into the Dominican Laity without the involvement, knowledge, or consent of the responsible Lay Dominican and the chapters’/fraternities’ councils;

and whereas, the Dominican Laity treasure their fraternal relationship with the friars and deeply appreciate the friars’ promotion of the Dominican Laity and their nurturing of the Lay Dominican vocation and formation;

The Dominican Laity InterProvincial Council of North American respectfully petitions the General Chapter of Krakow 2004 to ordain and admonish that no friar may receive any lay person into the Laity of the Order of Preachers, nor receive their profession, but rather refer the interested lay person to the nearest chapter/fraternity of the Dominican Laity or to an officer of the Lay Provincial Council, or involve the responsible member of the Dominican Laity in the admission and rite.

Respectfully submitted,

The Dominican Laity InterProvincial Council 2004
meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, U.S.A.
February 19-22, 2004

Participants: Canadian Province: Teresa Lippingwell, OP (Toronto, observer); Kevin Hughes, OP (Quebec, observer); Ann Marie Sweeney, OP (Vancouver, observer). Mexico/Puerto Rico: Pedro Torres, OP (Mexico City, observer, Latin America ICLDF delegate). North America: Laurie Biszko, OP (Rhode Island, North American ICLDF delegate). U.S. Central Province: Ruth Kummer, OP (Michigan, Provincial President); fr James (Jim) Motl, OP (Missouri, Provincial Promoter); Steven Smith, OP (Colorado, delegate). U.S. Eastern Province: Dorothy Murphy, TOP (Maryland, Provincial President); fr James Sullivan, OP (New York, Provincial Promoter); William Lynch, TOP (Connecticut, delegate). U.S. Southern Province: Dru Chauffe, OP (Texas, Provincial Moderator); fr Martin (Marty) Iott, OP (North Carolina, Provincial Promoter); Bruce Trigo, OP (Louisiana, delegate). U.S. Western Province: Karen Woods, OPL (Arizona, Provincial President); fr George Matanic, OP (California, Provincial Promoter); Bill Rabalais, OPL (California, delegate).

DOMINICAN LITURGICAL CALENDAR

June 2004

18- Bl. Osana of Mantua, lay Dominican

20- 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time,

Hours Week IV

23- Bl. Innocent V, friar and pope

24- The Nativity of John the Baptist (S)

27- 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time,

Hours Week I

July 2004

4- 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time,

Hours Week II

7- Bl. Benedict XI, friar and pope

8- Bl. Adrian Fortescue, lay Dominican

9- St. John of Cologne, priest, & Comp (M)

11- 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time,

Hours Week III

13- Bl. James of Varazze, friar and bishop

17- Bl. Ceslaus of Poland, priest (OM)

18- 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time,

Hours Week IV

22- St. Mary Magdalene, patroness (M)

24- Bl. Jane of Orvieto, lay Dominican

- Bl. Augustine of Biella, priest

25- 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time,

Hours Week I

August 2004

1- 18th Week in Ordinary Time,

Hours Week II

2- Bl. Jane of Aza, mother of
St. Dominic (OM)

3- Bl. Augustine Kazotic, friar and bishop

6- Transfiguration of the Lord (F)

7- Vigil of St. Dominic

8- Holy Father Dominic, priest (S),

Hours Week III

9- Bl. John of Salerno, priest

14- Bl. Aimo Taparelli, priest

15- The Assumption (S), Hours Week IV

17- St. Hyacinth of Poland, priest (M)

18- Bl. Mannes, brother of St. Dominic

19- Bl. Jordan of Pisa, priest

22- 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time,

Hours Week I

23- St. Rose of Lima, lay Dominican (M)

26- Bl. James of Bevagna, priest

28- St. Augustine, bishop/doctor (F)

29- 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time,

Hours Week II

September 2004

2- Bl. Guala of Bergamo, bishop

- Bl. Ingrid of Sweden, religious

4- Bl. Catherine of Racconigi, lay Domini-
can

5- 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time,

Hours Week III

6- Bl. Bertrand of Garrigue, priest

8- The Birth of the Blessed Virgin (F)

12- 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time,

Hours Week IV

14- Exultation of the Holy Cross (F)

18- St. Juan Macias, religious (M)

19- 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time,

Hours Week I

20- Bl. Mark of Modena, priest

- Bl. Francis de Posadas, priest

24- Bl. Dalmatius Moner, priest

26- 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time,

Hours Week II

28- St. Dominic Ibanez de Erquicia &
Com.

October 2004

3- Bl. Dominic Spadafora, priest

4- Holy Father Francis of Assisi, religious (F)

(S) Solemnity (F) Feast

(M) Memorial (OM) Optional Memorial

* Office for the Dead prayed

2004 FUND DRIVE BEGINS

Dear Fellow Dominican Laity Member,

As we receive no subsidy from the friars, we depend on your \$30 dues payments and Fund Drive contributions to cover our expenses. Although some members may have thought the Irvine Bequest would provide our income, Mr. Irvine verbally requested that the bequest NOT be used for day-to-day costs. As such, the Provincial Council voted to earmark bequest funds for our members' formation. We maintain a modest budget and rely entirely on the volunteer labor of Laity members. Last year we made severe budget reductions in order to bring our expenses in line with our flagging income. We succeeded, and now would like to restore our newsletter to its previous size. Our newsletter benefits all our members, both chapter and private.

Our largest projected expenses for 2004-'05 are: newsletter printing \$850; postage \$893; Promoter's expenses \$1,500; travel to meetings \$2,000; room and board at meetings \$2,600 and International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities \$500. We need your financial help and pledge that we will be responsible stewards of the same.

Would you please demonstrate a Dominican spirit of community and consider making an individual or chapter donation to assist us in maintaining a quality level of service to you? Please send your check made payable to DOMINICAN LAITY to:

Dominican Laity Office
P. O. Box 85451
Racine, WI 53408-5451

Thank you in advance. Donor names will be featured in the next issue of *Challenge*.

Yours in Saints Dominic and Catherine,

Mary Lee

Mary Lee Odders, OP
Provincial Treasurer

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

Thank you for your 2004 Fund Drive contribution, which supports our Province's Dominican Laity work for your benefit. In gratitude, your name will be included in a contributors' listing featured in the next *Challenge*, unless you indicate otherwise below.

() I do NOT want my name included in the listing of contributors. I prefer to remain anonymous.

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 be easily 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 printing, 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.

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

Mary Lee

Central Province Dominican Laity Office

P O Box 85451

Racine WI 53408-5451

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED