



CHALLENGE

News from the Dominican Laity, Province of St. Albert the Great

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 1

SUMMER 2007

From the President

Action Alert

Christians Plead for Help from Persecution

In mid-May, the Curia (headquarters) of the Order of Preachers in Rome issued an "Action Alert" on behalf of the Christian minority which is being persecuted in Iraq. International Dominican Co-Promoters for Justice and Peace, Prakash Lohale, OP, and Toni Harris, OP, are asking that Dominican Family members contact local bishops, presidents of national conferences of bishops, papal nuncios, and heads of government to ask for their help. They endorsed the plea for protection recently voiced by church leaders in Iraq.

In a joint statement, Patriarch Mar Dinka IV of the Catholic Assyrian Church of the East and Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Emmanuel Delly of Babylon said that Baghdad's remaining Christians are facing persecution. They have called on Iraq's beleaguered government to protect their community from attacks by Al Qaeda-inspired Muslim extremists. In addition to calling on Prime Minister Nuri Al Maliki's government to protect them, the patriarchs also urged the United Nations to intervene.

In a recent sermon, Patriarch Delly spoke out on the issue, according to the *Al Mutamar* newspaper, stating: "We see that today we are being sent from our houses and forcibly displaced from our homeland and alienated from our brothers with whom we lived together." He also issued a call to all Christians: "I hereby send a plea in the name of all Christians to officials and to all those whose power is in their hands to bring about peace, security, and stability, among the sons of the homeland."

Before the US invasion in March 2003, there were an estimated 800,000 Christians in Iraq, about 3 percent of an otherwise largely Muslim population, living in urban centers such as Baghdad. Although there were some attacks on churches in the immediate aftermath of the fall of Saddam Hussein, Iraq's Christians were not

especially targeted while rival Sunni and Shiite Muslim factions went to war. However, as a relatively

Priest Killed, Convent Sacked

On June 3, 2007, *AsiaNews* reported that an armed group gunned down and killed a Chaldean Catholic priest, Fr Ragheed Ganni, and three of his aides. The murder took place right after Sunday Mass in front of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Mosul, where Fr Ragheed was pastor.

On or about June 1 in Baghdad, also according to *AsiaNews*, the convent belonging to the Chaldean Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Baghdad, was ransacked. The only two sisters who still lived at Angel Raphael Convent said that a group of terrorists broke in during their absence and on their return the convent had been sacked of all its goods and turned into a base for military operations.

Sources maintain that the attack on the convent, "could be in response to the Chaldean Patriarch Emmanuel Delly's condemnation of the attack on the Sunni Abdul Qader Al Dilani Mosque," which took place May 28 in Baghdad.

In a letter prepared May 24 to Pope Benedict XVI, Master of the Order Fr Carlos Azpiroz Costa expressed his "grave concern" for the "security, and the future, of our Dominican Family members and the entire Christian community in Iraq." He asked the Pope to talk to President Bush on his visit to Europe during the G-8 Summit.

wealthy community, many Christians fell prey to kidnap and ransom groups and many of them have fled the country or moved to the relative safety of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Lay Dominicans Meet for Congress in Argentina

Delegates from among Lay Dominicans in 60 different countries met at *El Cenaculo* retreat facility, in Pilar, Argentina, March 17 – 24, to discuss the theme of "Companions in Preaching." Their previous international assembly was in Montreal in 1985.

Their goal was to revise and update their commitment to life and mission in the task of preaching, while trying to strengthen ties among themselves and with other branches of the Order of Preachers. They studied and discussed the issues of 1) preaching and praying; 2) study and formation; 3) government; and 4) the presence of Lay Dominicans in the Dominican Family and in the Church.

The Master of the Order, Fr Carlos Azpiroz Costa, OP, from Argentina but living in Rome, participated in the event. He was accompanied by the Promoter General of the Lay Dominicans, Fr Gerald Stookey, OP, and Fr David Kammler, OP, who took up this service at the end of the Congress. (See Page 2.)

Dr Belen Lorezca-Tangco, OP, from the Philippines, who is President of the Lay Dominicans on the international level, and Dr Maria Llopart, OP, from Mendoza, who is President of the Argentinean Lay Dominicans, coordinated the meeting. Mr Pedro Torres, OP, from Mexico, who until now represented the Latin American and Caribbean Lay Dominicans, and his successor, Dr Teresita Tenti de Volta, OP, from Santiago del Estero, Argentina, collaborated during the meeting.

by Ruth Kummer, OP

Buenos dias or noches, depending on when you are reading this!



Much has happened since my last report. I've been to the International Congress convened by the International Council of Lay

Dominican Fraternities (ICLDF) in Argentina, the Provincial Council Meeting, and then down to Indiana on Memorial Day weekend to work once again on our new formation materials (see Fr Jim's column). There have been a good number of changes initiated by your representatives that affect us all, and those changes are still being reviewed as I write this column.

At the Congress in March, we daily prayed and ate together and debated formally and informally important issues to our Dominican Family. Debates were in Spanish, French, and English, and proceedings were also translated into our mother tongues. Voting was even displayed electronically on a screen.

Unfortunately, I became ill for a portion of the proceedings, and I apologize for not giving you a firsthand report. But to give you a good account all the same, I've borrowed from an article in the current Western Province newsletter, *Christ in the World*.

The ICLDF developed statutes, regulations, and recommendations in the presence of Fr Carlos Azpiroz Costa, OP, Master of the Order, and Fr Gerald Stookey, OP, General Promoter for Lay Dominicans. Though the acts of this Congress are non-binding, acceptance helps in building a stronger network with a structure that uses the same terminology among the variety of cultures and backgrounds of our Dominican Family.

There were five topics addressed: 1) preaching and prayer, 2) study and formation, 3) govern-

Continued on Page 6

'Preaching' Was Preached at International Congress

Fr Gerald Stookey, OP, gave this address at the International Congress of Lay Dominicans in Argentina on March 17, 2007.

by Fr Gerald Stookey, OP

Former Promoter General of the Lay Dominicans

Good morning, preachers! Thank you for coming to Argentina to attend this International Congress of Lay Dominican Fraternities! I know that everyone has made a great sacrifice just to get ready for the Congress and just to be here today.

How is your preaching going? That is the question that all of us Dominicans should ask ourselves regularly, and at the beginning of each new day. So, at the beginning of our Congress, whose theme is "Lay Dominicans: Companions in Preaching," let us ask ourselves right now: "How is our preaching doing?"

I imagine we could spend the entire week here just listening to each other's answers to this challenging inquiry about our preaching. We would have each one take a turn and tell us what it means *for you* to be a preacher personally. Surely each one's report would include a lot about *to whom* you preach or *what* message it is that you most often preach to them. As modern disciples, we would have to answer Jesus' question of us today: Who do *you* say that I am—and especially do you say it to others? How do you personally communicate the Word of God to others? I imagine that from some of you we would hear stories of how difficult it is to preach to certain individuals or how hard it is to give testimony to God in adversary circumstances. Many in this room would share remarkable stories of what they have already suffered in this life because of their faith in the Crucified and Risen Lord. And yes, so many of us would get the opportunity to tell our greatest success stories as preachers, and how we really celebrated the Living Word of God with some others who needed to hear it and who actually responded when they heard it.

Personally, I think every Dominican individual and group should frequently ask how their preaching is going. All our lives and mission should be seen in relation to the "Holy Preaching," and we should develop a deep self-identity by calling ourselves *preachers*. Do you wake up in the morning asking yourself, how can I help spread the Word of God today? A Dominican might ask herself, "Who needs to hear the message of God's love where I will be working today? A Lay Dominican might say to himself, "I need to be a better Christian example here in my neighborhood." A Lay Dominican Chapter or Fraternity could discuss having a community preaching project together. You see, I believe every Dominican priory, monastery, convent, fraternity or group should evaluate their entire life and mission in relationship to the Preaching. All of us ought to include a report on our preaching in every one of our meetings!

The Master's recent letter on the Preparation of the 800th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Nuns reminded me of the Second Vatican Council's calling us back to our roots and original preaching charism. As Fr Carlos wrote, "Let us walk faithful to the love we had at first." Are we faithful to that first love we felt when we began to know Christ and when we first began to walk in the way of the preachers? Let's go back to what we always have been and are still suppose to be: *preachers!*

As the Letter to the Romans (10:14) asks: How will they hear without a preacher? How will there be any preaching, unless people are sent and actually go out and preach? And how would anyone go out and preach until they know what they believe, and they clearly identify themselves as a preacher? And then, wise as serpents (Mt 10:16) we must go out and find a myriad of ways to preach.

It is true that one cannot give what one does not have. And likewise it is true that if we who "have" preaching or who *are* preachers and call ourselves an Order of Preachers, then we ought to give what we do have! Go preach! Fr Timothy Radcliffe has often emphasized that we Dominicans are essentially *missionaries*, perhaps the very first truly missionary religious order of the Church. So being a Dominican preacher is not something for *ourselves* or a vocation for saving my own soul, although that will hopefully be the result at the end. Rather being a Dominican preacher is for *others*, directed outward in mission. Not self-centered, in

other words, but other-directed.

In order to truly celebrate our 800th anniversary, I suggest we emphasize our being a religious "Order of Preachers" just as much as we have emphasized being "Dominicans" in recent history. That is, the love we had at first was not about being followers of Dominic de Guzman, but above all followers of Jesus Christ. When the Order of Preachers first began to walk faithfully, we might equally have been called "Diegans" instead of "Dominicans," because it was Bishop Diego of Osma who initially led the preaching project, as our Dominican historian Sr Barbara Beaumont has stated.

Too often being "Dominicans" is folkloric in a way (although I do not mean to put down our wonderful traditions of black and white, and cute dogs with torches!). But what is rather essential is being an Order of *Preachers*, not just "Dominicans." We Dominicans run the same risk that a lot of Catholics face, namely, we could almost completely forget the initial project, the love we believers had at first, or the original message of God's love for all which Jesus preached. And instead, we could simply focus on the cultural beauty of being a Christian or a Dominican. We end up *devotional* Christians and Dominicans, but not very deeply *vocational* preachers, like Jesus and Dominic were! In fact, the word "Dominican," as lovely as it is, helps keep us inactive, keeps us neutral, allows us to focus on *me* being one. But the word "Preacher" is very active, cannot be used as a simple identity but rather signifies that I must be preaching to *others*, and not just to myself. So like Jesus and his follower Dominic de Guzman, we no longer live for ourselves but for *Him* and for *others*.

So thank God, the Order of Preachers has formed a new International Commission on Preaching, which includes men and women preachers from different branches of our Family. May they assist us during the Jubilee Anniversary in repeatedly asking the daily, perennial question of "how is our preaching doing?"

For there is an urgency of the Gospel being preached that we cannot afford to ignore. As Ruben reminded us in his reflection at Morning Prayer, the world is full of suffering and many needs. You might say, the world is waiting for us preachers. But will the preachers be sent? How will the world ever hear, if there is no one prepared and sent to preach?

Many in the world do not know or believe in Jesus the Christ. And still many more who have heard of him or even profess to follow him, do not believe in what he preached. Jesus went out of his way to tell the synagogue and the whole world that God is love and that all people are created in love by God and that all God's creatures are loved by God. Every human on planet Earth is your brother or sister! And this is the preaching that does justice. Not justice as if it was a political campaign or a workers' union or an ideology. But Biblical justice which defends the equal rights of every person: They are your brothers and sisters, whether you like them or not, and they are loved by God, even if others do not love them, and *all* people are children of God as Jesus preached, especially those whom we love to exclude and hate: widows, orphans, lepers, the sick, women and children, foreigners, and even tax collectors and soldiers.

But this is the preaching that also makes peace. Not peace as if it was a political solution or a pacifist movement or a philosophy. But Biblical peace which means love and compassion even for our enemies. In Christ you cannot kill your enemy. When we are in Christ, murder is really fratricide, for every time one is killed it is your brother or sister that is being killed. Of course, we have enemies and evil people do exist. But they are our brothers and sisters who are mistaken and only our love, compassion, forgiveness, and hard prayer and preaching might bring them to conversion. Peace and justice are the preachers' basic message of Christ: God loves all people equally and they are all your brothers and sisters as children of God, and therefore you may not kill any of them, not even your enemies.

I don't think the world hears this message or that we preach it clearly enough. It is a difficult task to be a faithful preacher. It requires companions. Do not attempt to preach alone! There is no such thing as a lone Dominican—we are the company of preachers, the companions in preaching, a community and Family of Preachers. It takes prayer companions to do this. It requires classmates or colleagues with whom to study and learn. It

Continued on Page 3

New Formation Program Developed for all St Albert the Great Chapters

The Lay Dominicans of the Province of St Albert the Great have developed a unified "Program of Lay Dominican Formation." The new manual was unanimously approved as a living document during the Provincial Council Meeting, April 27, in Plymouth, Michigan.

"The document that resulted is the product of 20 years of thought (on the part of many different Midwestern Lay Dominicans), the accumulated writings of decades, and two days of thumping hard labor this April," said Provincial Director of Formation Dr Thomas Ryba, OP.

The Formation Manual specifies in detail, the activities for each chapter for the approximately five years of initiation leading to Final Profession. "The assumption was that a common plan would create a common purpose for the Province," Ryba said.

The group decided that a formation program must address the broad spiritual, intellectual, and personal needs of Lay Dominicans in conformity with the Four Pillars of the Dominican Order. "This meant that, in a comprehensive program of formation, the affective should be as important as the cognitive," Ryba said. The Formation Committee also decided that although it should be a rigorous formation program, it should not be so

challenging that it would be impossible for most of the chapters to benefit from it. "There is a balance between required and optional features," he added.

The Formation Committee, which started on the project last year, drew on the models of the Eastern (USA), Western (USA), and Australian Provinces, as well as accumulated materials in the St Albert the Great Province. The project was finalized over Memorial Day weekend in West Lafayette, Ind.

This new program will be inaugurated during the first week of November 2007, during a Province-wide workshop for all chapter moderators, formation directors, and religious assistants (see Fr Jim Motl's column).

Dr Ryba is a member of the Mary Magdalene Pro-Chapter in West Lafayette, Ind., and he is the Theologian in Residence from the University of Notre Dame at St Thomas Aquinas, the Catholic Center at Purdue. In addition to Ryba, the Formation Committee consisted of Mr Michael Porterfield, OP, and Dr Cynthia Ricard, OP, both of Queen of the Rosary Chapter in St Louis; President Ruth Kummer, OP; and Provincial Promoter Fr Jim Motl, OP.

Guidelines, Bylaws, and Leadership Manual Updated by Delegates at Provincial Meeting

by **Marlene Laurendeau, OP**
Mary Magdalene Pro-Chapter

It was a heartening experience to attend the Provincial Council Meeting in late April as one of your voting members. I'd like to promote this experience to all of you, so that you yourself may take the opportunity to serve as a delegate in the future. All folks who have attended for the first time are usually very impressed at the energy and sense of community of this fine group.



There were about 10 delegates present, in addition to the Council officers and chairpersons. The Holy Spirit inspired this community of faithful Lay Dominicans, and swooped us up in a whirlwind of work, study, and prayer. Provincial Promoter Fr Jim Motl provided further inspiration with his theme of "evangelization" for the Masses he celebrated with us. He said that evangelization is the job of all the laity, but especially Lay Dominicans, because of their charism of preaching.

Corresponding Secretary Karen Sabourin helped guide the Mass ministers and orchestrate meeting logistics and paperwork, and President Ruth Kummer facilitated a full agenda. Acting Recording Secretary Cynthia Ricard provided us with succinct minutes, which helped me summarize here some of the main points that we voted upon on your behalf.

Eleven chapters' summary reports were documented. In addition, Lay Preaching Promoter Jill O'Brien made a report on preaching; Norm Laurendeau, our Interprovincial Delegate, reported on the Interprovincial Council Meeting last fall in New Orleans; Provincial Formation Chairperson Tom Ryba reported on the progress of the Formation Committee's new provincial formation materials; Vice President Harvey Newcomb II reported on membership efforts; Treasurer Mary Lee Odders presented a finance report; President Ruth Kummer reported on the International Congress held in Argentina in March; and I reported on the *Challenge* and committed to work on a brochure for the Province.

On the first morning the delegates split up into working groups to update the Guidelines, the Leadership Manual, and the Provincial Bylaws. The changes were entered into three computers and then combined into Cynthia Ricard's computer so that she could later disseminate the combined changes via e-mail. By the end of the weekend, the "sense of the draft of guidelines" were unanimously approved, as were the Leadership Manual edits and the Bylaw changes. They are now being fine-tuned via electronic communication by the Executive Committee.

Tom Ryba reported on work by the Formation Committee and handed out copies of the proposed Formation Manual. Ed Shea moved that the Formation Manual be approved as a living document, and it was unanimously approved. The Formation Committee (also consisting of Fr Jim

Motl, Ruth Kummer, Cynthia Ricard, and Mike Porterfield) met again over Memorial Day to do even more work. This new Province-wide Formation Manual will be explained to all chapter Moderators, Formation Directors, and Religious Assistants in November of this year (see Fr Jim's column).

Jill O'Brien moved to have the delegates commission the Finance Committee to establish an ad hoc committee to develop and implement training of chapter Treasurers throughout the Province. The committee will operate under the direction of and in cooperation with the Provincial Finance Committee. This passed unanimously.

Norm Laurendeau's proposal that the Finance Committee explore the issue of establishing a non-profit status for the Lay Dominicans, such as a 501c (3), was unanimously accepted. He also moved that the Executive Committee draft a bylaw that would craft a protocol for dealing with uncooperative, uncomformable chapters and present it to the delegates for a vote by e-mail. That also carried unanimously.

Jill O'Brien moved to establish an ad hoc committee for composing liturgy and celebration at future Provincial meetings, with a new job description for that chairperson. A Co-Promoter of Preaching is needed, and the Justice, Peace, and Care of Creation position is also vacant. Tom Ryba, Louann Adcock, and Norm Laurendeau volunteered to serve on a committee to seek out candidates for these positions.

Tom Ryba moved that when a person who is finally professed moves from the Province, it should not be mandatory for that Lay Dominican to sever affiliation and transfer to the province of new residence. However, that person must maintain substantive connection with the St Albert the Great Province. If an officer, that Lay Dominican must fulfill obligations and responsibilities of that office. This was approved unanimously.

The West Lafayette, Ind., Mary Magdalene group's status was changed to Pro-Chapter. The Albuquerque group's request for Pro-Chapter status is pending final approval of our new Guidelines by the Prior Provincial. Finally, the last move was to establish the next Provincial Council meeting for October 2008. That too, was unanimously approved!

Preaching

Continued from Page 2

will need support and fraternal correction and organization, for the world is *not* naïve about organizing against the message of God's love. Even Jesus commented on this: How can the enemies and evildoers be so good at their wickedness and be so skilled at doing harm, while we faithful preachers do not get our act together, remain disorganized and unprepared! Jesus pushed his disciples to *organize*, not *agonize*!

And all of this is the work of this Congress, so that we might be more effective, faithful *preachers* to the world, in the manner of St Dominic.

From Around the Province . . .

Karen Sabourin, OP, celebrated her 40th anniversary in May as a Lay Dominican. She is a member of the **St Catherine of Sienna Group** in Grand Blanc, Mich. That group also honored Theresa Toccaceli, OP, for her “outstanding reflections offered during communion services.”

Blessed Fra Angelico Informal Group in Norridge, Ill., continues to study from the book by Fr Timothy Radcliffe, OP, *Sing a New Song*. . . The **St Dominic Chapter** in Denver is studying the life of St Dominic. . . **Queen of the Rosary Chapter** in Milwaukee celebrated the reception of Bernie Terrien on May 19. . . At **Blessed John Dominici Chapter** in Bay City, Mich., its long-time member, Lorraine Burden, OP, passed away; the group received its youngest member, a young college student, Jason Griffor; and Louann Adcock celebrated her 25th anniversary as a Lay Dominican. . . On June 9, Gene Bender was scheduled to be accepted as a Candidate and John Lennon as an Initiate into the **St Vincent Ferrer Chapter** in River Forest, Ill.; Guy Murphy, OP, has been re-elected as Moderator. . . The **St Rose Lima Chapter** in Dubuque, Iowa, is studying Christian spirituality and Dominican spirituality. At **St Peter Martyr Chapter** in Rockford, Ill., members are adjusting to the recent loss of fellow members due to illness, and there is also a couple who will be moving to the next level of profession on their wedding anniversary. . . At the **St Mary Magdalene Pro-Chapter** in West Lafayette, Ind., members at various levels are studying *Dominican Spirituality* by Eric Borgman, *Theology and Modern Science* by James Wiseman, and *Fire Within* by Thomas Dubay. . . Members of **Our Lady of the Sacred Heart** in Springfield, Ill., are studying the encyclical, *God Is Love*; Nini Saner made her Temporary Profession. . . The **St Martin de Porres Group** is studying the Beatitudes and justice issues (also see story below). . . The **Nuestra Senora de las Montanas Group** in Albuquerque joined the Newman Center friars and the Adrian Dominican Associates to celebrate the golden jubilee of Sr Geneal Kramer, OP..

St Martin de Porres Group Thriving with



On March 18, 2007, the St Martin de Porres Group of Greater Kansas City received three new candidates: Joseph Bradley, OP, John Heuret, OP, and Tom Bogdon, OP. Tom Smith, a finally professed private member who has been with the group from the beginning, is the Moderator, and Fr Jim Motl is the Religious Assistant.

The group began forming in early 2004, and has seven people regularly attending meetings. The group's usual order of meeting is the Dominican rosary, social time with refreshments, discussion of the study assignment, a business meeting, and evening prayer.

Left to right: Mark Radziejewski; Edward Dale, OP; Joseph Bradley, OP; Tom Smith, OP; John Heuret, OP; Margaret Mary Caffrey, OP; Tom Bogdon, OP; and Fr Jim Motl, OP. Not pictured: Ann E. Bus, OP

Strategic Plan Continues to Lead the Province in Process of Renewal

by Ed Shea, OP

Blessed Sacrament Chapter



The Strategic Plan for the Lay Dominicans of the Province of St. Albert the Great, established by the Provincial Council in 2005, was affirmed during this last Provincial Council Meeting in April of 2007. It has been a guiding force for us all. Some of the accomplishments well under way as a result of the Strategic Plan include:

- Development and approval of a detailed Formation Program, which covers all phases of development.
- Completion and approval of “A Handbook for Dominican Laity Leadership,” which defines roles and responsibilities for all chapter leadership.
- Creation of a Preaching Resource Packet, which will be utilized to enhance training in preaching.
- Agreement to bring together all chapter Moderators and Formation Directors to share these new materials and tools and to provide specific training. This Leadership Conference will be held in November of 2007. (See Fr Jim Motl’s column for details.)

The mission of the Laity as stated in the Strategic Plan is: Proclaim the Kingdom of God in our words and actions by application of the Dominican charisms of Prayer, Study, Community, and Ministry to our daily lives as members of a secular society.

The Plan defines the Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles for the Lay

Dominicans of the Province of St Albert the Great, as well as its primary objectives and goals. More importantly, the initial Plan, as approved by the Council, detailed specific Action Plans to enable the achievement of these objectives and goals, and prioritized these plans to ensure progress would be realized over a relatively short period of time. The Action Plans focused on the following key areas:

- **Formation** – Members of the Council agreed that there was a need for a consistent, professional-quality development program, and appropriate training for the Formation Directors to implement the Program.
- **Advertising** – Many chapters have developed materials to help in recruitment of new members (e.g., pamphlets, web sites). Unfortunately, there is minimal sharing of these materials across chapters, which inhibits the implementation of best practices.
- **Chapter Leadership Training** – There is an inconsistent understanding of roles and responsibilities for chapter leadership, and a definite lack of training for new leaders.
- **Chapter Meetings** – Our members deserve the most fulfilling, enriching experience of being Lay Dominicans. This can best be achieved if all chapters focus on the four pillars of the order – Prayer, Study, Community, and Ministry. Materials and training to enable this is essential.

Despite the accomplishments noted earlier, there is clearly much more to be done. Fortunately, the Strategic Plan is a journey, not an end, and it

Continued on Page 5

Looking for a Few Good People to Fill These Positions

Currently a Provincial Search Committee, consisting of Louann Adcock, Norm Laurendeau, and Tom Ryba, is searching for suitable candidates for three positions within the Province: Co-Promoter of Preaching; Chairperson of the Liturgy and Celebration Committee; and the Lay Provincial Promoter of Peace, Justice, and Care of Creation (JPCC). Job descriptions follow.

Chairperson of Liturgy and Celebration

The new ad hoc Liturgy and Celebration Committee will exist to supplement the prayer life and community development of delegates to the Lay Provincial Council. The Chairperson of the Liturgy and Celebration Committee will be appointed by the Executive Board of the LPC. The chairperson collaborates with the Executive Board in appointing four committee members, each of whom serves for an 18-20 month term and works with the chairperson in achieving the stipulated goals of this Committee.

The principal duties of the ad hoc Liturgy and Celebration Committee are as follows:

- To develop and implement special liturgical or social celebrations in order to offer models for ritual practice and common prayer that may be used by delegates within their chapters at a later time;
- To contribute to the prayer, reconciliation and recognition of delegates, as well as to community development and celebration within the Lay Provincial Council, through special offerings held during scheduled LPC meetings; and
- To design and arrange special events as commissioned by the Lay Provincial Council.

The First National Gathering
**Dominican Young Adults
 USA**

July 19 - 22, 2007

Co-Promoter of Midwest Preaching

The Co-Promoters of Preaching represent the Central Province at US and regional meetings concerned with the Dominican charism of preaching. Currently, Jill O'Brien, OP, is the Co-Promoter of National Preaching and she represents the Central Province at all US meetings. An additional Co-Promoter of Midwest Preaching is needed to represent the Province at regional meetings.

The purposes of this position are to facilitate preaching literacy and practice for Lay Dominicans, to collaborate with other branches of the Dominican Family in joint preaching-related ventures, to cooperate within regional and national preaching initiatives sponsored by brother and sister Dominicans, and to enable exploration of the role of preaching within Dominican life.

The principle duties of the Co-Promoters of Preaching are as follows:

- To work in conjunction with provincial membership, as well as with chapter and council officers, in providing educational preaching resources;
- To promote continued reflection upon the relationship between Dominican vocation and preaching as well as upon the charism of preaching in the experiences of individuals, chapters, and provincial life;
- To work with leadership at the provincial and chapter levels in identifying preaching needs and goals so as to plan and coordinate developmental formation for those who are called to liturgical or para-liturgical preaching;
- To collaborate with Dominican brothers and sisters at the regional and national levels in preaching conferences and, thereby, to discover resources and approaches, join shared ministry, improve preaching literacy, and contribute to emergent efforts at inclusive ministries within the Dominican Family;
- To report to the Lay Provincial Council (and the broader membership) discoveries resulting from meeting attendance and inter-branch dialogues to enhance awareness of recent developments in preaching.

Lay Provincial Promoter of Peace, Justice, and Care of Creation (JPCC)

The Lay Provincial Promoter of Peace, Justice, and Care of Creation (JPCC) participates in the Dominican JPCC network, thus serving as a conduit, researcher, and disseminator of information filtered down from the international and national promoters of JPCC to the members of the various chapters of the Central Province. S/He represents the Central Province at national JPCC conferences and at provincial/regional meetings of the Friars and Sisters who serve as JPCC promoters for their provinces and congregations. S/He submits an annual report of her/his activities to the Lay Provincial Council.

The next meeting of the North American JPCC is scheduled at St. Pius V, 1909 Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL. The meeting dates are September 17-19, 2007.

Conduit: The Promoter ensures that Lay Dominicans within the Central Province have an opportunity to participate in efforts related to justice, peace or care of creation, in keeping with the priorities of the Dominican Order, by transmitting individual or combined bulletins from the national and international offices of JPCC. The bulletins are transmitted at least quarterly to representatives of the various chapters as well as to the LPC President.

Researcher: The Promoter keeps track of various sources and websites that contribute to members' understanding of JPCC concerns being promoted Order-wide. From time to time, s/he issues a list of those sources and sites for inclusion in the *Challenge*, as well as in materials related to formation. In this capacity, the Promoter of JPCC also aids the Formation Chairperson, providing information to the latter as requested.

Disseminator: The Promoter not only acts as conduit and researcher, but also as a resource to both the officers and members of the Central Province. In this capacity, s/he provides articles covering current events and issues related to JPCC for the *Challenge* and responds to appropriate requests from individual chapters.

Representative: The Promoter attends the annual conference for Promoters of JPCC at the Province's expense, as well as regional/provincial meetings of JPCC Promoters for Friars and Sisters. S/he also provides, as requested, reports of such proceedings to the LPC or Executive Board.

Nominations are being taken until Friday, Aug. 3, 2007. The Chairperson of this search committee, Norm Laurendeau, can be reached via e-mail at laurende@ecn.purdue.edu, via telephone at 207-725-4196, or via letter at 5 Mast Lane, Brunswick, ME 04011.

Strategic Plan Leads Renewal

Continued from Page 4

continues to provide a roadmap for the future. Accordingly, consistent with the Plan, the Council agreed on key priorities for this year, including:

- 1) Hosting the Leadership Conference noted above. Key topics will include:
 - Roles and responsibilities of chapter officers
 - Membership recruiting
 - Use of common resources (e.g., a generic brochure, the web)
 - Formation program and training
 - The Strategic Plan and how to expand it to the chapters
- 2) Focus on revitalization of chapter meetings, including:
 - Communication of the Strategic Plan and assistance in applying the Plan at the chapter level
 - Application of training from the Leadership Conference to chapter life (e.g., incorporation of preaching in meeting agendas, hosting "call out" recruitment days)

You will all learn more about the Strategic Plan later this year. Its success requires that we all understand it and take ownership in its implementation and evolution. Each year we will revisit the Plan, seeking input from all Lay Dominicans. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me (ejshea@mac.com) with any thoughts or suggestions you may have to improve "the roadmap."

President Ruth

Continued from Page 1

ment, 4) economics and finance, and 5) “Lay Dominicans in the Dominican Family and the Church.” (See below for more detail on these items.)

New Resolutions Passed at the International Congress

Preaching and Prayer

We must 1) recover the Dominican tradition of contemplative prayer; 2) listen to the elements of our society (signs of the times) to formulate a plan of preaching and ministry; and 3) live our charism of preaching creatively. That would include preaching through word, charity, and example; seeking formation in methods of preaching; and making use of the new technologies of information and communication.

Study and Formation

We are to 1) develop a written formation program in each province; and 2) include recommended contents, such as for Initial Formation: Dominican spirituality, the pillars, life of St Dominic, and The Rule. Ongoing formation would include Dominican history and tradition; documents of the Church and of the Order; justice/peace/care of creation; and Christology.

Government: Rules and Statutes

The title “Lay Dominican Fraternities/Chapters” should be used (and it is recognized that the term “fraternity” is not a usable term for some parts of the English-speaking world).

Lay Dominicans may use “OP” after their names. When identifying themselves in public, however, Lay Dominicans should preface their names with their titles (such as Mr, Mrs, Ms) if there is any possibility of ambiguity.

Regarding Dominican “commitment,” admission into the order is done through a “promise,” as specified in Rule No. 14; “promise” is the proper term for commitment, while “profession” refers to canonical vows.

Other government issues:

- **Officers:** Titles should be faithful to the Latin text of the Rule as approved by the Holy See.
- **Provincial Promoter:** The recommendation is that the person may be a Friar, Sister, Nun, or Lay Dominican.
- **Religious Assistant:** This person can be a Lay Dominican. (If a lay person, the title must be adjusted, since we are not “religious.”)
- **Dispensation from Promises:** Upon request of the Fraternity/Chapter, the Prior Provincial dispenses a member from his or her promise.
- **Dismissal from the Order:** Upon request of the Fraternity/Chapter, the Prior Provincial dismisses a member in case of lack of communion with the Church or public scandal. (In the West, we include clear abandonment of the Dominican Way of Life to which the member committed him/herself.) The member has the right of appeal.

Government: Organization and Structure

To use language befitting our identity and roles as Lay Dominicans:

- We use “**Lay Dominicans**” (as opposed to “Dominican Laity”) as the designation. “Dominicans” names what we are; “lay” describes what kind.
- “**OP**” is the designation for all professed Lay Dominicans.
- “**Community**” is the designation for our groups, expressing our way of life as brothers and sisters. (The plenary session voted to retain “Fraternity/Chapter.”)
- “**Group**” (as opposed to “Informal Group”) is the designation for all beginning communities, before their recognition as a “Fraternity/Chapter.”
- “**Councils**” is to be used for organizations of Lay Dominican government at the community and provincial levels.
- “**Provincial Promoter:**” A Lay Dominican, Friar, or Sister who acts as a link between Lay Dominicans and other branches of the Order.
- “**Religious Assistant:**” A Friar, Sister, or Lay Dominican approved by the Prior Provincial, who serves as a resource for the Lay Dominican Community

Economics and Finance

- A section on finance will be included in the Statutes of the International Council.
- An annual fee will be established to support the Lay Dominican Secretariat in Rome.
- Each year the ICLDF treasurer will send copies of an audited statement to each Provincial or National Council, which will also be sent to the individual Fraternities/Chapters.

Lay Dominicans in Dominican Family and in Church

We will develop an International Lay Dominican website to serve as a clearinghouse for information to encourage collaboration and cooperation; a formation program for those making a transition between the Dominican Youth Movement or Dominican Volunteers International and the Lay Dominicans; and a pre-formation program to benefit those who have not been adequately formed in the Catholic faith (basic catechesis).

On Using the Right Words, Dominican Style

by Fr Gerald Stookey, OP

Former Promoter General of the Lay Dominicans

When the revised Rule was promulgated in 1987, its Latin title read *Regula Fraternitatum Laicalium Sancti Dominici*. And as it was published in *Analecta* (1987, vol. XLVIII, page 83) one can see immediately under that Latin title, the following: *NB. Titulus ‘Fraternitates laicales’ exprimi potest modo diverso ad mentem linguarum diversarum*, i.e., the name “Lay Fraternities” can be expressed differently in diverse languages.

Many English-speaking countries found that “fraternities” refer to male groups, just as “sororities” refer to female groups. Some also found that the word “fraternity” in itself was not inclusive language. So groups from countries like Australia, South Africa, the United States, and many other English-speaking countries call themselves “Lay Dominican Chapters.”

Controversy About ‘Third Order’

The use of “Third Order” and “Tertiaries” is a related, but different, matter. Nowhere is the Latin equivalent for “Third Order” or “Tertiary” used in the new Rule. Fr Bernard Olivier, OP, who coordinated the meeting in Montreal in 1985, which made the new Rule, said that the Order’s use of “First,”

Continued on Page 7

Promoter's Corner

by Fr Jim Motl



From the time I took on the job of Provincial Promoter for the Dominican Laity (now called "Lay Dominicans") I heard the question, "When are we going to get a new formation program for the Province?" I learned that this had been a pressing question for almost 20 years. Some chapters made notable progress in creating their own formation programs. Dolly Suazo has developed a fine program in Denver. Norm Laurendeau put together a challenging program for the more recent West Lafayette group. Mary and Bob McAuliffe worked hard on a study program in Minneapolis.

Guy Murphy composed a very attractive program for each of the levels of initial formation in the River Forest chapter. Guy offered this program for Province-wide use at the 2005 Provincial Council meeting. I was not fully satisfied with the River Forest program as a model suitable for the whole Province, and I asked that the issue be tabled until more work could be done on it. At the 2005 Meeting I suggested that Tom Ryba, a Doctor of Sacred Theology with The University of Notre Dame, (who is the Theologian in Residence at the Dominican Newman Center at Purdue University), be the Provincial Director of Formation. He is a professed member of the St Mary Magdalene Pro-Chapter there. The Executive Committee of the Provincial Council approved this appointment.

Because of the initiative of Michael Porterfield and Cyndi Ricard of the St Louis chapter and with funding from the Irvine Fund administered by Treasurer Mary Lee Odders, we were able to meet in early April to put together the elements of a new formation program for the several stages of formation, with a lengthy bibliography of suggestions for continuing formation. This new program was formally adopted by the Provincial Council at its April meeting, and is based on six constituent elements:

- Consideration of what is appropriate for each stage of formation (inquiry, candidacy leading to first promises, and candidacy leading to final promises);
- The four pillars of Dominican life (prayer, study, community, and mission);
- Formation themes (Dominican history, prayer and spirituality, preaching, contemporary church documents on the vocation of the laity, the social teaching of the Church, theological themes such as God, Christ, the Church, and Catholic morality);
- National Certification Standards of Lay Ecclesial Ministers issued by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops;
- Assisting new members to achieve a level of knowledge and understanding appropriate to each; and
- Helping new members to grow spiritually, to understand their gifts, and to become integral members of the Dominican community.

On Memorial Day weekend, Tom, Michael, Cyndi, and I met with President Ruth Kummer in West Lafayette, Ind., to finalize the program and to devise flexible methods of presenting it so that it can be adapted to the varying demands of different chapters and individuals. We know

that our chapters have differing needs and that those interested in joining have widely varying backgrounds. One chapter consists mostly of active college professors. Others have largely retired persons as members, but want to attract a new generation. The St Louis chapter recently received first promises from four people: a widely respected professor of philosophy, a theology student, a home-care provider, and a mother and grandmother of a large family.

At this meeting, we also planned a Formation Workshop for the chapter leadership of the Province. This workshop, which was announced sometime ago, will take place in the Detroit area on November 1 - 4, 2007. The Formation Director, the Moderator, and the Religious Assistant of each chapter and group are expected to attend.

The cost of this workshop, including transportation to and from the workshop, will be paid from the Irvine Fund. It will be the first major use of this fund, which has been accumulating interest for four years. The purpose of the Fund is to educate and promote formation among Lay Dominicans in St Albert's Province. I can think of no more important use of the fund than this workshop. I believe that if the elements of this program are understood and implemented, it will lead to new life for our local communities of Lay Dominicans. The program is challenging, but it is doable. It can mean not only the strengthening of our chapters and groups, but it will also make it much easier to start new groups.

Aquinas Institute, the Dominican School of Pastoral Theology in St Louis, is helping to implement this program by allowing us to use their webpage to make the program and its elements easily available. At the workshop, those who attend will learn how to download the program materials from this webpage at no cost. Books that cannot be copied will be available through local bookstores or through Amazon.com. I know that every chapter and group has at least one person who has Internet access, and can make the materials available to others who do not use the Internet. Eventually professors at Aquinas may make video-recorded lectures on topics in the program available on this webpage. We will also be working on developing a certificate program in Dominican studies through Aquinas for those with more scholarly interests who may want to gain academic recognition for their formation studies.

You can see from my article that I consider this new formation program and the workshop to introduce it extremely important for the future of Lay Dominican life in our province. I beg every chapter Formation Director and Moderator to make every sacrifice to attend. I will personally be contacting the Religious Assistants in the next few months to request their attendance as well.

In the fall issue of the *Challenge*, Mary Lee Odders, our Provincial Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee that administers the Irvine Fund, will provide information about how to apply for travel reimbursements. There is no set "travel allowance," since people will come from differing distances and situations. I plan to take Amtrak because I have the time and I enjoy train travel. Others coming from greater distances or with more demanding schedules will choose to fly. Those who live closer may choose to drive. We will of course appreciate it if you avoid first-class travel, unless it is required by a physical condition. Anyone who wishes to contribute all or part of their travel costs may do so, but do not let concern about cost stand in the way of coming to the workshop.

Please plan now to attend, if you are a Moderator, a Formation Director, or a Religious Assistant. It is the strong opinion of the Provincial Committee that has developed this new program, that its success depends on the involvement of every level of leadership pertaining to formation within each local community. Please pray for the success of this project.

Using the Right Words

Continued from Page 6

"Second," and "Third" was already discouraged, if not prohibited by 1985. However, this disuse of "Third Order" or "Tertiary," as reflected by the new Rule of Montreal, was not accepted by some lay provinces, and that is where the controversy continues to be.

The changes made at Montreal in 1985 also reflected the move back to the "lay" branch of the Order, as intended from the beginning with the Rule of 1287. That is, the Third Order was intentionally re-designed by those present to be a "lay" organization. There are congregations who are/were officially called "Third Order Religious" to distinguish them from "Third Order Secular." The distinction and separation was reconfirmed by the

insistence that now the Third Order would be called "Lay Dominican Fraternities."

Before Montreal, the Rule for Priestly Fraternities of St Dominic was established in 1976. And with Vatican II's emphasis on the theology of the laity and adult lay leaders, the move to be "Lay Dominican Fraternities" was intentional and required.

The members at Montreal in 1985 voted for the Rule changes after much discussion and prayer. They sent them on to Rome for approval by the Master, Fr Damian Byrne, OP, who in fact attended the entire meeting in Montreal. The Master with his Curia approved the new Rule and sent it on to the Congregation of Religious at the Vatican, which is why it took until 1987 to get the Rule finally approbated.

Dominican Liturgical Calendar—Third Quarter, 2007

July

4- Bl Pier Giorgio Frassati, lay Dominican
7- Bl Benedict XI, pope
8- Bl Adrian Fortescue, lay Dominican/ martyr
9- St John of Cologne, priest, & Companions, martyrs (M)
13- Bl James of Varazze, bishop
17- Bl Ceslaus of Poland, priest (OM)
22- St Mary Magdalene, patroness (M)
24- Bl Jane of Orvieto, lay Dominican
- Bl Augustine of Biella, priest
27- Bl Robert Nutter, martyr

August

2- Bl Jane of Aza, mother of St Dominic (OM)
3- Bl Augustine Kazotic
8- Our Holy Father Dominic, priest (S)

9- Bl John of Salerno, priest
14- Bl Aimo Taparelli, priest
15- The Assumption (S)
17- St Hyacinth of Poland, priest (M)
18- Bl Mannes, bro. of St. Dominic
19- Bl Jordan of Pisa, priest
23- St Rose of Lima, lay Dominican (M)
26- Bl James of Bevagna, priest
28- St Augustine, bishop/doctor of the Church (F)

September

2- Bl Guala of Bergamo, bishop
- Bl Ingrid of Sweden, religious
4- Bl Catherine of Racconigi, Lay Dominican
5- Anniversary of Deceased Friends and Bene factors*
6- Bl Bertrand of Garrigue, priest

18- St Juan Macias, religious (M)
20- Bl Mark of Modena, priest
- Bl Francis de Posadas, priest
24- Bl Dalmatius Moner, priest
26- Bl Lawrence of Ripafratta, priest
28- St Dominic Ibanez de Erquicia and St James Kyushei Tomonaga, priests, St. Lawrence Ruiz, lay Dominican, and Companions, martyrs

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

Provincial Promoter: Fr Jim Motl, OP; **President:** Ruth Kummer, OP; **Vice President:** Harvey Newcomb II, OP; **Acting Recording Secretary:** Dr Cynthia Ricard, OP; **Corresponding Secretary:** Karen F. Sabourin, OP; **Treasurer:** Mary Lee Odders, OP; **Inter-Provincial Council Delegate:** Dr Norm Laurendeau, OP

Challenge Editor: Marlene Carlos Laurendeau, OP
E-mail: marlenelauren@aol.com

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.

Marlene Laurendeau, Challenge Editor

5 Mast Lane

Brunswick, ME 04011

ADDRESS SERVICE CORRECTION