

News from Fanjeaux

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N° 4

EASTERTIDE
2009

S.H.O.P. to launch a distance learning history course - for and about Dominican women

This spring we received the good news that a project initiated by S.H.O.P. for a distance learning history course had received approval from the International Commission of Nuns of the Order, and so it was going to be possible to proceed with development and receive some financial support.

The launch is scheduled for January 2010 and aims to cover eventually the history of Dominican women from the beginnings of the Order onwards. The course is designed with the needs of Dominican nuns, sisters and lay women in mind, aiming to enable them to deepen their sense of their own identity in the Dominican Order through the study of their own history, the history of the friars, within the context of the history of the Church and the world.

The structure of the course is modular and the units are self-contained. That is, each module can be followed singly or as part of a wider programme of study. Students will be able to work at their own pace, as there will be no externally imposed deadlines. Course materials and bibliographies will be provided. A certificate of course completion will be awarded to students who complete the course. The course will be available in English, Spanish and French.

In the first instance, the emphasis is placed on the history of Dominican nuns and their place in the Order, but this is by no means exclusive, and the scope of the course will be progressively broadened. The first two units to be offered from January 2010, available in English and Spanish, will be:

I The beginnings of the Dominican Order

- Diego, Dominic and the preaching campaign
- The foundation of Prouilhe
- The founding of the Friars Preachers

II The history of Dominican nuns in the early centuries of the Order

- Rapid expansion of the monasteries
- *Curia monialium*



In future years, additional units and languages will be added progressively: These will include:

- History of the constitutions of Dominican nuns and the evolution of the form of profession of Dominican nuns
- Study in the early life of the Order
- The missionary life of the Order before 1500.
- The beginnings of Dominican life in the New World, including the early monasteries of Latin America
- Dominican reforms: 15th – 17th centuries
- The fate of the Order in the turmoil of European Revolutions in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- The restoration of the Order in the 19th century – Lacordaire and others.
- The arrival of Dominican nuns in North America
- The beginnings in Asia, and Africa

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Preaching Justice II	2
Historical Directory	2
MS transcription	3
Book news	3-4
Lands of Dominic	4
Membership	4

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ***New projects***
- ***Become a member of the S.H.O.P. Association***
- ***Book news***

STUDY THE HISTORY OF DOMINICAN WOMEN

FOLLOW THE S.H.O.P. DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE IN 2010


DOMINICAN MONASTERIES
A Historical Directory of Dominican nuns world-wide
1206-2009
Edited by S.H.O.P. (Sister Historians of the Order of Preachers) FANJEAUX

A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT ON THE HISTORY OF DOMINICAN MONASTERIES

The second new project for which funding has been received concerns the creation of a historical directory of Dominican monasteries world-wide, providing a brief history of each monastery, one or more photographs and a brief presentation of the community today.

Each monastery is invited to submit its own entry, or material to enable the editors to produce an entry on their behalf. A vast amount of archival material has already been received at Fanjeaux, and so we are in a position to move forward with the project. Sisters with appropriate skills are being invited to participate in the work of preparation for publication. Please contact S.H.O.P. at Fanjeaux if you are interested.

Contributions for the directory (hopefully with illustrations) may be sent in any medium, by e-mail or regular post.

PLANS FOR A NEW BOOK ON DOMINICAN WOMEN AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Sr Helen Alford o.p., Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Angelicum, has announced a plan to produce a companion volume to the book *Preaching Justice* that came out in 2007.

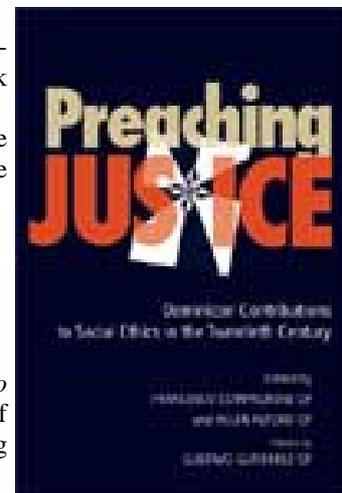
This new work will cover the contributions of Dominican women in the same field. Sr Barbara of S.H.O.P. will serve as a historical consultant for the project. We reproduce here extracts from Sr Helen's announcement:

Preaching Justice II

Contributions of Dominican Women to Social Ethics in the 20th Century

Editors: Helen Alford OP and Francesco Compagnoni OP

In December 2007 the book *Preaching Justice: Dominican Contributions to Social Ethics in the 20th Century* was presented. It covers the contribution of over 30 Dominicans, mostly friars but also two lay Dominicans (men), covering the twentieth century from its beginning until its end.



The idea of "Preaching Justice II" is to dedicate a similarly extensive research project to the female members of the Dominican Order and to produce a similar kind of final publication to present its results.

Preaching Justice II should be published in 2012, which is the year dedicated to "Women and Preaching" in the countdown to the 2016 celebration, thus supporting the Order as a whole in its celebrations for that year. We would be interested to hear from you if you have suggestions for sisters, communities or projects to be included in the book. We are interested in people or projects that address the following issues:

- structural injustice, structural sin, and the promotion of human rights;
- ideas and theories in social ethics, especially when work was published;
- education, where teaching materials or curricula were developed by Dominican women with regard to Catholic social thought, social ethics or justice and peace/ecological questions;

The transcription of the life of Mère Marguerite de Jésus is finished!

Just about a year after work started, we managed to finish the job of transcribing on to a WORD document the manuscript life of the Mère Marguerite de Jésus Senaux, foundress of the two Dominican monasteries—St Thomas and de la Croix—that existed in Paris before the French Revolution. This is just the first stage in a process of study and editing that will hopefully lead to a publication of this fascinating work.

The Dominican nuns at Evry, near Paris, who own the manuscript and who are the direct descendants of Mère Marguerite's community, have produced half a dozen copies of a soft bound version for a team of scholars who will carry the work further.



MORE BOOK NEWS



IT'S NEVER TOO SOON TO WRITE YOUR HISTORY!

The Little Sisters of the Lamb, founded some 25 years ago by Sr Marie Coqueray and a group of sisters from the Roman Congregation of St Dominic, have produced a first volume on the history and life of this vigorous young branch of the Dominican tree.

The title of the book (which is available only in French for the moment), *The mendicant's offering*, is an appropriately original choice given the lifestyle of the sisters, who have revived the mendicant tradition which they see as an aid to evangelisation, and given also the fact that this book is not for sale. It is given

freely to those who request it.

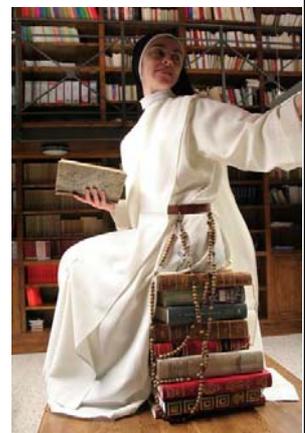
The book contains much valuable information about the early years of the foundation at Vézelay, how the little brothers joined them, how they all came to move to their present property at Plavilla near Fanjeaux, as well as a collection of photographs from the archives. The cover has a background of denim blue (like the distinctive habits the sisters and brothers wear) with their lamb logo, which is individually hand carved in wood for each candidate who makes profession.

L'offrande du mendiant, Communauté de l'Agneau, (Saint-Pierre, Plavilla 11270 France) 1 vol. 278 p.

Two important publication announcements from the Racine Congregation of Dominican Sisters (USA)

Our gratitude goes to **Suzanne Noffke OP** for her many years of labour to make the works of **Catherine of Siena** available in English. The fourth and final volume of *The Letters of Catherine of Siena* came off the press in December 2008. This means that *all* of Catherine's writings – *Dialogue*, *Prayers*, and *Letters* – are now for the very first time available in English, a cause for celebration! The volume (as the three previous volumes) can be purchased directly from the publisher at <http://www.asu.edu/clas/acmrs/publications/mrts/order.html>, where you'll find a link for an order form. Meanwhile, a thematic *Anthology* is in the editorial process at ACMRS (same publisher as the *Letters*). The tentative plan is to publish it in three paperback volumes.

Also, **Dolores Enderle OP** of the same congregation has published a volume entitled *A Time to Grow*, number 3 of a series dealing with the history of the Racine Dominicans. Sr Dolores deals with the history of the congregation for the period 1901-1964, and she aims to show "how all concerned tried to live out their vows in a changing world." (Published by Authorhouse)..





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**Become a member of
the S.H.O.P.
Association!**

**It is easy! Send us a note of
your name and address (by
e-mail or by post) and send
20€ (by post - cash or
cheque - or by bank
transfer). You will then
receive our newsletter
regularly and be informed of
publications and events. You
can also make use of the
facilities—accommodation
and library — at Fanjeaux.**

**All donations are most
gratefully received — they
go towards acquiring new
books for the library devoted
to the history of Dominican
women.**

The Association of Sister Historians of the Order of Preachers is defined in its statutes as: "a resource for documentation, communication and formation at the service of Dominican women, religious and lay, through the study of their histories."

***Lands of Dominic tours—all is
not lost!***

Although Parable is no longer organising the much loved 3-week tours, it is still possible to make a more "customised" pilgrimage to the Dominican places in the South-West of France. In fact so far this year, S.H.O.P. has received 3 requests (from Canada, Ireland and the USA) for personalised guiding of visits to Fanjeaux, Carcassonne, Toulouse, Sorèze.

S.H.O.P. Is happy to take on this service for small groups, which can be provided with accommodation if required.. Let us know your needs if you are thinking of making such a visit.



BEATIFICATION OF FR LAGRANGE OP

Fr Manuel Rivero, vice-postulator for the cause of the beatification of Fr Lagrange, the founder of the Dominican Ecole Biblique at Jerusalem invites S.H.O.P. newsletter readers to pray for this intention. A good way of doing this—if you read French—is to use Fr Manuel's recently produced volume in the "15 days prayer" series.* It provides an informative introduction to the life and work of this Dominican scholar.

Fr Manuel himself should also be remembered as he is currently ministering in Haïti. The Dominicans plan to build a new convent in what is one of the poorest countries in the world.

* *Prier 15 Jours avec Le Père lagrange*, editions Nouvelle Cité, Paris.



**CONSULTANCY
SERVICE**

S.H.O.P. regularly receives requests from different parts of the world for help in tracking down various pieces of information concerning Dominican history—for example which congregation ran the hospice at St Raphael (South of France), what is the history of recreation time in Dominican monastic life, where was the General Chapter held? Don't hesitate to contact us if you need a bit of Dominican detective work—we'll do our best to help you, and the service is free!

**For donations and subscriptions :
Sœurs Historiennes Ordre des Prêcheurs
La Banque Postale, Montpellier—contact us
for details.**

**We're on the web!
[http://
fanjeauxproject.op.org](http://fanjeauxproject.op.org)**