

LAY DOMINICANS
ST. ALBERT
THE GREAT
CENTRAL PROVINCE

contemplata

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

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BIBLICAL WISDOM LITERATURE

- ◆ BOOK OF JOB
- ◆ PSALMS
- ◆ PROVERBS
- ◆ ECCLESIASTES
- ◆ SONG OF SONGS
- ◆ WISDOM
- ◆ SIRACH

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The Joy of Summer...

Summer brings a certain joy into our lives, particularly when you have survived a Northern Winter.

Green is returning to the trees and the grass; colorful flowers begin to bloom; the Sun has returned with its warmth.



Recall your happiness when school was over

and you thought Summer would last forever. As we finished last month:

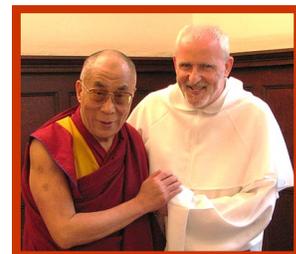
“Summer is icumin in Loudly sing, Cuckoo.”

This brings up the question: Is there a difference between happiness and joy? According to the internet the differences are all over the place. Pay you money; take your choice. J.D. Salinger says, “The most singular difference between happiness and joy is that happiness is a solid and joy is a liquid.”

Why not ‘both/and’? A happy person is joyful; a joyful person is happy. Let’s not spend time in semantics and make it moot by being both.

St. Dominic was a happy man, a joyful man. Aristotle counseled that to acquire a habit it must be practiced. Vincent McNabb OP was surprised and delighted to learn when he joined the Dominicans that “if you hadn’t joy, out you went”.

Fr. Paul Murray OP writes “not to pursue happiness” but “to give their attention to God and to their neighbor” and happiness will follow “in abundance”.



Happy Birthday contemplata !

Can you believe it? *contemplata* is already 1 year old! It was 1st published in June 2012. This is our 13th issue.

It began after an absence of *Challenge* for many, many months. Our members deserved some communication, especially on what has been happening in the Province. So *contemplata* stepped into the void as a free gift offered in charity.

Your Editor bought the Microsoft

Publisher Program and the rest is history—48 pages/year of mostly original material!

3 of the most important areas of a Lay Dominican’s spiritual life are treated each month: the Rule; Formation; Contemplation. We would not be Dominicans without these. Dominican Saints are also treated along with some humor.

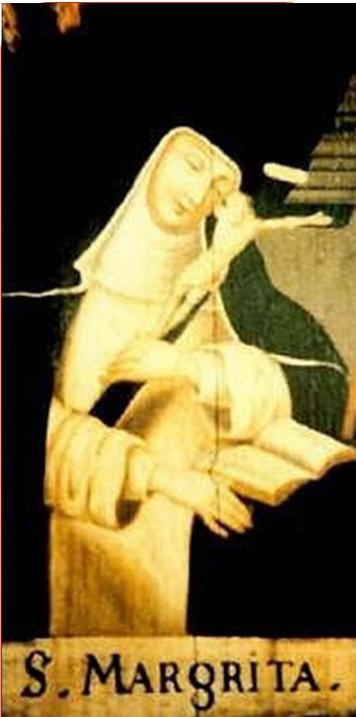
Quite a bit of thought also goes into page 1 with a topical essay.

The ezine (electronic magazine) is posted on the Laity page of donicanlife.org and our Provincial website.

Here’s hoping that you enjoy our monthly visits !



Saint of the Month for June



S. MARGRITA.

Bl. Margaret(a) Ebner OP (1291-1351) was a German Dominican nun who was born in Swabia (Germany) to an aristocratic family.

She entered a Dominican Second Order monastery in about 1305. Unfortunately she soon fell dangerously ill and remained so off and on for the rest of her life.

However, fortunately this illness was the stimulus for her conversion to a

deeper mystical life. God's ways are not man's ways.

During the Great Schism when there were 3 claimants to the Papal throne, her monastery aligned with the Avignon Papacy (Rome) and had to disperse.

Fr. Henry of Nordlingen assumed her spiritual direction with much correspondence.

He commanded her to write a full account of her

'Revelations' (*Offenbarungen*) and conversations with the Infant Jesus, termed 'mother-mysticism'. She also corresponded with Johannes Tauler OP and through him, she is connected to the Rhineland Mysticism movement.

She was beatified in 1979 by Pope John Paul II.



"Happy are those who find wisdom."
(Prov. 3: 13)

July Saints

July 4—Bl. Pier-Giorgio Frassati +1925 Lay Dominican (see right)

July 7—Bl. Benedict XI +1304 AKA Nicholas Boccasini—2nd Dominican Pope

July 8—Bl. Adrian Fortescue +1539 Lay Dominican—martyred by Henry VIII—cousin of Anne Boleyn

July 9—St. John of Cologne & Comps. +1572—patron of Dominican parish priests

July 13—Bl. James of Voragine

+1298—author (*Legenda Aurea-The Golden Legend*)

July 17—Bl. Ceslaus Ordowatz +1242—St. Hyacinth's brother

July 22—**St. Mary Magdalen** 'Apostle to the Apostles' - secondary co-patroness of the Order with St. Catherine of Alexandria

July 24—Bl. Jane of Orvieto +1306—Lay Dominican

Bl. Augustine of Biella +1493

July 27—Bl. Robert Nutter +1600—martyr under Elizabeth I



Bl. Pier-Giorgio Frassatti

Joannes Tauler ...

"What matters most is a good and ready will to obey God.

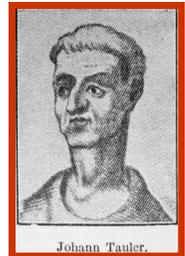
"You don't have to leave the world to be holy and grow closer to the Holy One.

"A good meditation, even when it is interrupted by

occasional nodding, is much more beneficial than many outward religious exercises.

"As long as a man has, he must give. And when he has nothing more, he is free.

"Give yourself entirely to God, enter and hide in the



Johann Tauler.

hidden ground of your soul.

"Judge yourself; if you do that you will not be judged by God, as St. Paul says."



"Judge yourself."

Provincial Happenings

Special congratulations go out to our Provincial Promoter of Preaching, **Laura Dejmek OP**, who was awarded her Doctor of Ministry in Preaching after much hard work. Way to go, Dr. Laura!



Congratulations to 3 members of St. Albert the Great Province **Fr. Nick Monco OP**, ordained to the priesthood; **Brs Luke Barder OP and Jude McPeek, OP**, new Deacons

The **Blessed Sacrament Chapter**, Farmington Hills, MI., continues at each meeting to collect bags of food for the needy. This is a great Community Mission which is recommended for every Chapter. It is a tradition going back to the 13th century Lay Dominicans.

The General Chapter of the Order of Preachers will be held July 22-August 8, 2013 in Trogir, Croatia. The Master asks for our prayers. This will be a very eventful Chapter.

St. Albert the Great Central Province will hold its annual **Lay Dominican Provincial Council** at the Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center, Chicago, IL., on Oct. 3-6, 2013.

REMINDER:

Provincial dues are payable now (\$33/member; \$43/family). Plus any dues your Chapter may assess. See your Treasurer and get the dues in.



Have you been keeping up with the **Provincial website ? :** (laydominicancentral.org) Much has been added to the 'News', 'Promoters', 'JPCC', 'Videos' and 'Jubilee' etc. pages. **Click it out!**

Lay Dominican Rule

I am sure you know that when St. Dominic founded the Order he submitted the *Rule of St. Augustine* as his Order's Rule. It is still followed today by the Friars, Nuns and Sisters who promise in their public profession to live in accordance with it.

Obviously this bears some study as the spirit of the Rule is followed, today, not necessarily each specificity. Lay Dominicans can find this Rule in the Provincial Formation

Program, Candidacy I, Unit 9, *The Rule*.

Fr. Walter Wagner Op in '*Dominican Life: A Commentary on the Rule of St. Augustine*' wrote: "I always remember my novice master saying about the Rule: '*People do not pay enough attention to the Rule,*' and he was right."

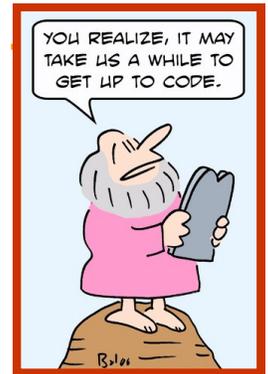
St. Augustine in the conclusion to his Rule wrote: "*have it read to you once a week so as to neglect no point through forgetfulness.*" Every week

in monasteries world-wide the Rule is read aloud.

The questions we must ask of ourselves is: Have we read our Lay Dominican Rule recently and do we read and consult it often?

The Rule is our *Regula (rule/guide)*. A serious suggestion is to have each Chapter read a small part of the Rule with a brief discussion each meeting.

St. Augustine knew that not refreshing our memory of the



Rule, we as humans could become lax. It happened in the Order barely 100 years after Dominic's death.

Provincial Formation

Candidacy I is a year of Formation similar to the Novitiate phase of Formation for Friars and Sisters. It will acquaint the Candidate with the Church's and Order's expectations for a member along with the history of the Order and its members.

At the end of the year you will know what is involved in your vocation. The 1st 2 Units study Vatican II's *Apostolicam Actuositatem* and the

role of the Laity.

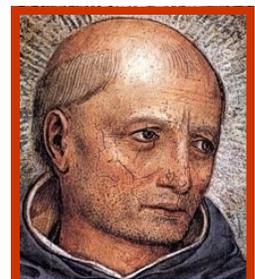
Unit 2 discusses our Founder, *St. Dominic*. You will see how his life parallels the life of Jesus, both being itinerant Preachers. An excellent biography by Fr. Gregory Anderson OP will be studied. Ask yourself what strikes you the most about St. Dominic?

Unit 3 concerns itself with *The*

Dominicans. The study is *The Dominican Story, Chapter I: The Golden Years.*, by Fr. Gregory Anderson OP. These years go from the death of St. Dominic to 1303.

It briefly describes our 1st Masters including Munio of Zamora, under whom the 1st Lay Dominican Rule was established.

It was a golden time, indeed!



Jordan of Saxony



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Send us your news on the happenings in your Chapter/Group and we will be pleased to post them in **contemplata** and on our Provincial website: laydominicancentral.org

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Who am I?

Last month's Sainly person was Bl. Diana d'Andalo OP.

I was born to a noble Florentine family in 1522. When my mother died I was sent to a Benedictine Monastery at the age of 4.

I entered a Dominican Monastery at the age of 13. My many ecstasies and raptures branded me as 'sleepy' and I was derided. Although I received the stigmata, I was in danger of the Inquisition calling me a heretic.

Eventually many did seek me out including 3 future Popes. I authored many letters and a *Summa* of spirituality. I was canonized in 1746.

Who am I?

A BUSY FR. BOB

Fr. Bob was sitting outside the Emergency Room with a man whose wife had just been admitted and said to the man in a concerned voice, "I don't like the looks of your wife at all." "Me neither, Father," said the husband, "But she's a great cook and good with the kids."

At a reception for new members of the parish Fr. Bob asked one of the women, "Aren't you wear-

ing your wedding ring on the wrong finger?" "Yes I am," she replied, "I married the wrong man!"

A man and a woman are having problems a short time after their wedding and decide to seek an annulment. Fr. Bob handling the paperwork asks, "What went wrong?" The husband replies, "In the 6 weeks we've been together we haven't been able to agree on a single thing." The wife says, "7 weeks."



Contemplari...

To contemplate? - To meditate? What is the difference?

Often these terms are used interchangeably. Either is a spiritual good. In saying the Rosary we usually meditate on the Mysteries as we pray the words.

Indeed, meditation is found as a necessary component in all world religions. It must meet some inner human need. In the Gospels Jesus Himself often withdrew to enter into communion with His Father.

Padre Pio stated, "Through the study of books one seeks God; by meditation one finds Him." The Catholic Church has a history of valuing meditation through the years.

Check out '*Ignatian Meditation*' and '*Sulpician Meditation*' for 2 popular methods of meditation. They are excellent means of acquiring the 'art' of meditating, especially for the initiate.

'*Lectio Divina*' is a bridge into '*contemplation*', which is a '*resting in God*'. Contemplation, unlike meditation, is not discursive, not analytical. The mind is emptied to make room for God; thus it is not empty.

St. Thomas Aquinas OP said, "...there should be persons who devote themselves to the life of contemplation".

Why not **Lay Dominicans**?