

May 2007

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Letter from the President

This is a continuation of my letter in the April issue of *eLumen*. If you remember, I mentioned that the work of the International Congress was only part of the process and that the recommendations and proposals accepted by that Congress would have to be reviewed by each Province.

By chance, our Provincial Council was scheduled to meet at Cranberry, Penn.. starting March 29th through April 1st only four days after I returned from Argentina. Although I was a little weary and even though some of us are still struggling to adapt to changes made 25 years ago, this Province was the first in the world to consider the work of the Congress of 2007. Just to review, the Provincial Council is a representative body composed of the Regional President (see Lexicon below) and two elected delegates from each Region and, under the provision of the Rule, is charged with the government of the Province.

Since I truly believe much of our struggle and strife is created by a failure to communicate, both **what** is being done and more importantly **why** it is being done, I will attempt to be as clear as possible on both items voted by the Congress and on Provincial Council action. I have not covered all the Congress material but am listing those items that will most affect us immediately. In the actions of the Provincial Council, in addition to items that specifically addressed Congress proposals, are matters that in the spirit of self-government had to be resolved either to bring the Lay Dominicans of this Providence into conformity with the worldwide Order or specifically related to situations particular to this Province. Items from both groups that are not of such an immediate nature but are more in the way of plans and hopes for the future will be covered in another letter.

Congress Resolution on Study and Formation

1. To develop a written formation program in each province.
2. Titles for formation, initial and ongoing formation were accepted. I have not listed all these titles as they basically follow the titles the Provincial Council decided upon several years ago. There was only one title *Peace, Justice, Care of Creation* that was added to our list.

Provincial Council Action

As this is one of the few Provinces that already had a written formation program, now being revised and partially complete, the questions were: do we retain this program in face of severe financial difficulties and if so, should we



*He is
Risen*



continue with the present printed format or change to a purely electronic one. The Council voted to continue the program, to have a reduced number of printed materials but to also offer a password protected format available via Internet and to offer a CD version also. The Council also voted to assess chapters a break-even charge for either printed, password Internet or CD format. The Council voted not to redo its title list to include the one new title. Work on the novitiate series is continuing with an anticipated issue date the summer of 2007.

Congress Resolutions of Government: Rules and Statues/Organization and Structure - Read this section carefully!

1. To use language befitting our identity and roles: The overall title should be Lay Dominican Fraternities/Chapters. **Dominican** names what we are. **Lay** describes the kind. [It is recognized that the term 'fraternity' is not a totally usable term for some parts of the English speaking world but it was also noted that both the Master General and the Canon Lawyer for the Order, both in attendance at the Congress requested that we remain faithful to the Latin terms of the Rule.]

The Provincial Council accepted the reasoning and advice of both the Master General and his advisor on these terms — in this Province we are the Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic. The individual unit is for example the Holy Saints Chapter.

2. As members of the Order proper, Lay Dominicans may use O.P. after their names thus identifying themselves as Dominicans in public. Lay Dominicans should preface their names with appropriate titles (e.g., Mr., Mrs., Ms., etc.)

After considering this and the several proposals submitted by our members, the Council agreed to adopt this term accepting the reasoning of the Congress - again we are Dominicans and the preface identifies us (Mr. Mrs. etc.) places us as Lay members.

3. Incorporation into the Order is through our promises, the formula for which is specified in the Rule. **Promise** is the proper term for this commitment as **Profession** is reserved for those making canonical vows.

The Council agreed to accept this simply because canon law specifically defines the term profession. Under this designation it is understood that as Lay Dominicans we do not make vows, do not make profession, but make promises. We should conduct ourselves in accord with Church law.

4. Each Province should revise their Directory to include Dispensation from Promises - upon the request of the Fraternity/Chapter to the Prior Provincial.
5. Each Province should revise their Directory to allow Dismissal from the Order upon the request of the Fraternity/Chapter: the Prior Provincial dismisses a member in case of lack of communion with the Church or public scandal, understanding the member has the right of appeal.

The Council agreed to the need for both provisions on Dispensation and Dismissal. This has been a problem not only worldwide and but also in a number of our chapters over the years. The Provincial Council amended the language somewhat and is currently working on the language and procedural steps to be incorporated into the Directory.

6. Group is the proper designation for all beginning communities before recognition as a Fraternity/Chapter.

The Council voted to retain the Pro-Chapter designation at this time.

7. Council – is the proper designation for organization of Lay Dominican Government at a minimum at the chapter and provincial levels.

This addressed the problems of council government in those countries with only a few chapters (or in some cases) one chapter. Our current structure, including regional councils, is not changed by this and required no specific action.

8. Provincial Promoter – may be friar, sister or Lay Dominican who serves as the link between the Lay Dominicans and the rest of the Family.

This basically is directed toward those areas that have few friars or sisters and may actually use a Lay Dominican as Promoter. This does not apply to us, at present.

9. Religious Assistant – is the designation for friar, sister, nun or Lay Dominican approved by the Prior Provincial who is the spiritual resource for the chapter. In the case of a layperson the title would be amended since a Lay Dominican is not a religious.

This title is the most used worldwide and replaces Chaplain, Religious Promoter or other designation. The Provincial Council voted to accept the worldwide usage of the Order. This will represent a change for most of our chapters but more clearly defines this person as the spiritual resource, not a governmental element, for the chapter.

10. President – is the designation for the elected leader of a fraternity/chapter and is the term used in the Latin text of the Rule and is most descriptive of the role. Prior or Prioress is not a proper or accepted

term.

The Council voted to accept this term and to discourage the continued use of the terms Prior or Prioress in our chapters as these are not proper to the office, or the structure of a lay chapter and are reserved by the Church for specific persons and places.

Congress Resolutions on Finance and Economy

1. To support the upkeep of our "house" which means support for the Lay Dominican office located in Santa Sabina, Rome and to include a section on finances in the Statutes of the International Council.
2. To set an annual fee, which will be updated annually according to the Italian inflation rate, payable in advance, beginning in 2008, at the rate of 2 Euro per member per Province.
3. To establish procedure and funds for an International Congress to be held every six years.

The Council agreed to accept this proposal. At the current Euro rate this would be approximately \$3 for each active member per year. We cannot continue to accept financial support (office, expenses) from the Order as children who need someone to pay their bills when we maintain we are an equal, vital and collaborative part of the Order. If we wish to develop plans for the future and to maintain our self-government concept we must face this financial reality. This is further discussed under Provincial Finances.

ITEMS COVERED BY THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Clarification of the Term Lay Chapter and Membership

Currently we are the only Province in the world that accepts clerical or other vowed persons as members of the lay fraternities. In some chapters they hold elected positions. We have been advised for sometime now by the Office of the Promoter for the Laity in Rome that this is contrary to the Rule, purpose and intent of the Lay Fraternities and should be addressed. At the same time, there are many in this status who were encouraged to become members or who entered this special status **after** becoming members of the Lay Fraternities. In charity, their status also needs to be addressed.

The Provincial Council voted on the following guidelines:

1. Priests are not to be received as members of a lay chapter but are received in the ceremony for Clerics and will follow not the Lay Rule but the separate Rule of the Clerical Fraternities.
2. Deacons, Sisters, Consecrated Virgins, Anchorites and Hermits by ordination or special vows are considered by the Church as no longer **lay** and as such cannot be received as members of a Lay Fraternity.
3. If any of these persons were received in a lay chapter prior to this they are "grandfathered (or mothered)" and may remain with the chapter, however, they may not hold office within the lay chapter. The same applies if they change their status after being received into a chapter such as a member now becoming a deacon. They may remain an associate of the chapter but may not hold office.
4. Proper ceremony and Rule of the Clerical Fraternities was made available to each regional moderator.

Status of Active/Inactive Members

Once final promises are made, one remains a Dominican for life! Community is a pillar of the lay vocation and active participation in chapter life is the normal expectation. Circumstances however often make this reasonably impossible. Trying to balance these elements, the Council attempted to reach an agreement that would address each issue.

1. The Council affirmed the position that there are no private members. Members are to be received and formed within a chapter setting. Again, we face the “grandfather” situation but where possible all should be affiliated with a particular chapter.
2. Active Members are those who engage in the ongoing life of a particular chapter by faithful attendance and participation.
3. Inactive Members are divided into two categories:
 - a. Inactive Excused - members who have a serious reason for not attending chapters for any period of time, from brief to extended, for serious reasons - illness, advanced age, disability, family situations, extended absence from the area (such as for school, military assignment), those who move and have no chapter to which they may transfer), or those who belong to a chapter that becomes inactive. Upon request to the chapter council they are excused from this obligation. This does not relieve them of fulfilling the other obligations of the Lay Dominican Vocation as best able nor does it mean that they cannot contribute in positive ways allowed by their particular situation to the overall Order.
 - b. Absent - a member who simply does not attend chapter, has not requested excused absence, and evidences no interest in the chapter. Contact should be made with them. There may be some situation that could be resolved. Possibly another chapter would be of interest or they would actually agree to a dispensation from membership.

Will this work? Time and experience will tell. Although it requires some work on the part of the individual chapter to really update their membership rolls, it is a beginning in getting a handle on a common problem.

Finance

Last summer we were instructed by the Prior Provincial, as part of the reorganization of the finances of the entire Order, to separate ourselves corporately and financially from the Friars. At this point, we are in the final stages of incorporation as a non-profit entity in the State of New York. As part of this, we have had to open separate bank accounts and have total signature authority over this account. This was a radical step for this Province and was taken because it was assumed that we were capable of handling our own matters. This may or may not prove to be the case.

Several years ago the Provincial Council moved collection of dues from within the chapters to a centralized system whereby individuals, not chapters, were responsible for payment of dues. There were several reasons for this. Many chapters complained that the burden of collecting provincial dues kept people from accepting the office of chapter treasurer. Also many chapters spent the entire year collecting dues and did not remit them until all in the chapter had paid. By this process there was no way the Council could make yearly plans or prepared any accurate budget. Also it was felt that if one considered the Dominican vocation a priority in their lives surely the simple act of paying dues in a timely manner would not be a problem. On all counts we were wrong.

By April of this year, we have collected just over 50% of dues from those who have identified themselves as active members. This is after deducting those members who we have already identified as unable to pay because of age, illness and the like. What does this mean? It means that the summer issue of *The Torch* (unless we find a source of finance outside our membership) will be our last one. It means that the richest and most blessed Province in the world will not be able to meet its commitment to the office in Rome. It means that our formation program (which is the envy of most of the world) will have to go back to the lopsided Xerox copies of the former program. It means that the Rule will continue to be Xeroxed for reception ceremonies or you will have to download one from the net. It means that we will default on the \$36,000 loan made to us by the Friars just to keep us going last year. It means goodbye to our internet site and to the almost completed system of online ordering for the bookstore because of its monthly charge (after one member donated almost \$2000) in equipment and another days and days of program work).

What steps can we take to correct this? Organizationally, we are returning the collection of dues to the individual chapters starting now. I will outline this along with other items taken up by the Provincial Council in next month's *eLumen* (if it pleases the editor). In the meantime I often sit under that window in the House of Studies – the one where St. Dominic prayed for bread for his brothers because they had none and the angels came with bread. I pray and pray for some angels for us and a little bread for our newly-elected Treasurer, Ray Biszko of the New England region, would also be mighty sweet.

Dorothy Murphy
Provincial Council President
redceltop@starpower.net



Novena-Prayer for God's blessing for the International Lay Dominican Congress 2007

O LORD,

- accompanying the International Congress at Buenos Aires with our prayers,
- sharing the hopes and efforts of the delegates and helping participants,
- praying for all benefactors and donators making that meeting possible,

we beseech you:

Give us unity with all sisters and brothers of the Dominican Family
a mind that tries to recognize Your eternal love,
a care that is searching for You with persistence,
a wisdom that finds You in all of your creation,
a style of life that pleases You,
a confidence that embraces You without end.

We pray this by the intercession of Mary, the Holy Mother
of Your beloved son, Jesus Christ,
St. Dominic, our father and all the blessed women and men of our Order.

AMEN

(according to St. Thomas of Aquinas)



International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities (ICLDF)

This is the first in a series of reflections on the history and purpose of our International Council and how we work to support the worldwide network of Lay Dominicans.

Hopefully, you have read Dorothy's reflections on the recent Congress and her detailed review of key recommendations. It is not my intent to repeat what she has reported; however, I would like to provide you with some background to help you understand these recommendations and the circumstances in which they were presented.

Our History

Exactly five years ago, the ICLDF (International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities) was formed and held its first meeting at Santa Sabina in Rome. We in the United States had the necessary structure in place to elect a North American Representative. This election took place at the DLIPC (Dominican Laity Inter-Provincial Council) meeting in February 2002.

The DLIPC is the regional/national council for the USA and Canada as well as the Vietnamese vicariate. Each province sends the president, provincial promoter and elected delegate to the annual meeting. Each attendee is a voting delegate and the host region makes arrangements for hospitality, agenda and recording secretary. The president of the host region functions as president/facilitator for the meeting. The DLIPC rotates meeting locations and responsibilities annually.

So, you might ask, "How can I be elected to the DLIPC or ICLDF"? Well, each voting member in a chapter elects the chapter council and that council elects a president (formerly known as moderator/prior/prioress) who sits then on a regional council. At the regional level the elective body votes for a president, vice president and delegate to attend the Provincial Council. The Provincial council holds elections every three years to elect a president, vice president and delegate to the DLIPC. So to be a member of the DLIPC or ICLDF you first must serve on your chapter council, regional council, and Provincial council.

Many of you are already familiar with the progression of the electoral process, but I know that this information will be useful to those who are new to the Order and our structure of government. What is interesting to note is that every election affects future events and decisions. No election is without merit. We should always approach voting with a serious attitude because *a randomly elected individual could someday be elected to a higher council position and make decisions that are not in the best interests of all.*

As I mentioned before, the first meeting held in Rome was in May 2002. The five regional areas were defined as Africa, Asia/Pacific, Europe, Latin America and North America. Representatives from Europe and North America were elected.

Asia/Pacific sent their regional president and elected her to the position at the zonal meeting held the following August. Latin America sent their president-elect who also was subsequently elected at their next regional meeting. Fr. Jerry Stookey, O.P., Promoter General of the Laity, appointed the delegate from Africa because the physical hardships and financial challenges of an African regional meeting were yet to be resolved. Since that initial meeting five years ago every zone/region has organized and elected a representative to the ICLDF.

The first ICLDF representatives were:

Africa	Dr. Emmanuel Afrifa (Nigeria)
Asia/Pacific	Rowena Gonzales (Philippines)
Europe	Patricia Robinson (England)
Latin America	Pedro Torres (Mexico)
North America	Laurie Biszko (USA)

The current ICLDF representatives are:

Africa	Marcus Kejunki (Cameroon)
Asia/Pacific	Dr. Belen Tangco (Philippines)
Europe	Patricia Kelly (Ireland)
Latin America	Pedro Torres (Mexico)
North America	Laurie Biszko (USA)

Newly elected/terms begin July 1, 2007

Latin America	Teresita di Volta, Esq. (Argentina)
North America	Doris Stukes (USA)

First Promoter General to ICLDF Fr. Gerald Stookey, OP (USA)

Current Promoter General ICLDF Fr. David Kammler, OP (Germany)

Meetings held:

May 2002	Rome, Italy
May 2003	Rome, Italy
April 2004	South Hampton, England
June 2005	Washington, DC
April/May 2006	Prouille/Fanjeaux France
October 2006	Buenos Aires, Argentina
March 2007	Pilar, Argentina

Scheduled:

June 2007

Rome, Italy

June 2008

Cameroon, Africa

Agenda

We gathered in Rome for that first meeting with enthusiasm and expectations but none of us had any idea what form this International Council would take. We came from different regions of the world, different cultural backgrounds, with different life experiences; however, we shared the common identity as Lay Dominicans. When we discussed our vocations, service to the church, issues challenging Dominican life in our respective regions, we were of one mind and one heart. The slate was clean and we were given the opportunity to write our own agenda. We spent one day defining the key points that we wanted to address and we then numbered each in order of priority. I was assigned the duty of drafting a five-year plan that we subsequently reviewed and prioritized. One item defined within that plan was to convoke an International Congress of Lay Dominicans. There was much work to be done.

Laurie Anne Biszko
ICLDF/North America

Next month we will continue with chronological events leading up to the congress



The faces of



*our
Dominican Family*



Regional News

Region One Faith Flaherty r.f.flaherty@comcast.net

The Boston Lay Fraternity of St. Dominic's Pro Chapter, Northeastern University Catholic Center, (directly behind Symphony Hall) conducted a very successful inquiry session for area students, young professionals, inactive Lay Dominicans, and private Dominicans who are interested in joining a new, innovative chapter. This Pro-Chapter was encouraged by the Provincial President, Dorothy Murphy, and the Provincial Promoter, fr. Juan-Diego Brunetta, O.P. The new group hopes to fulfill the need to minister to the area's many college students, young professionals, and those who always wanted to join a Dominican Chapter but were unable to because of transportation problems outside the city.

The Boston Lay Fraternity plans to have lectures and discussion forums for the area students and public. The Fraternity will take advantage of its proximity to Boston's various colleges and universities by welcoming the student population to consider becoming lay Dominicans, and inviting area theologians to the Pro-Chapter.

The first chapter meeting was a success. One could feel the excitement in the air. The energy, joy, and feeling of good will was very evident, in spite of a Nor'easter raging outside. It was a good beginning for what I'm sure will be a very spiritually fruitful Lay Dominican Pro-Chapter. Mr. Raimondo Di Bona, O.P.

Our Lady of Mercy Chapter, MCI Norfolk, MA proudly announces the adoption of two new "cloistered brothers," from the State Prison in Trenton, N.J. The Chapter unanimously voted to receive Agustin and Francisco as members of Our Lady of Mercy Chapter. Both aspirants have been in formation via snail mail for two years. They have completed both the Postulancy and Novitiate material. Hopefully, members of Our Lady of Mercy Chapter, along with its Spiritual Promoter, fr. Wayne Cavalier, O.P. can travel to Trenton, N.J., later this year to receive Agustin and Francisco formally in a Dominican ceremony. God is good.

Bethanyosfop@aol.com

Region Two Anna Donnelly Donnella@stjohns.edu

A day workshop on the **Liturgy of the Hours** will be given this summer by Br. Francis DeSalles, O.P., a brother from the House of Studies, Washington, D.C. as follows:

June 23 - at Molloy College, Rockville Centre, LI, NY. For details contact Jean Buckley (jeanjuli@verizon.net).

June 30 - At St. Vincent Ferrer Parish Hall, Lexington Ave & 65th St., NY, NY.
(9 AM-3:30 PM, \$10, brown bag lunch) For details contact Anne Thorn (Anne3rdDom@msn.com).

Region Three Donna Smith covicon123@yahoo.com

St. Louis Bertrand Chapter from St. Agatha's Church, Canastota, N.Y. cordially invites everyone to a Day of Reflection on May 5, 2007. The day will begin at 9:30 AM with registration and refreshments. Fr. Juan-Diego

Brunetta, O.P. will set the theme with a presentation on the "Vocation of the Laity and the Eucharist." a Holy Hour will begin at 11:15 AM which will include the Chaplet of Mercy, Confession, and Mass. Lunch will be catered. Fr. Juan-Diego will also present an afternoon Talk. The day will conclude by 4:00 PM with the Dominican Rosary and a Blessing by Father. The cost will be \$ 15.00, payable in advance. **Reservations are required by April 30, 2007.** Call Mike Seagriff at 315-697-3757 or email: mseagrif@twcny.rr.com

Region Four George Bell dominicanvocations@hotmail.com

The Annual Dominican Laity Retreat for any Chapter in the Province will be held on October 5, 6, & 7, 2007 at THE VILLA OF OUR LADY RETREAT HOUSE, Mount Pocono, PA. Fr. Juan-Diego Brunetta, O.P., will be the Retreat Master. Double and Triple rooms are \$135 per person, and Private rooms are \$160. All rooms have private baths.

For more information and/or reservations contact: Maria Soellner, tOP, at MSOELLNER@MOLLOY.edu or Lisa Hebo, TOP, at ltclhebo@juno.com. All Are Welcome.

Region Five Therese Errigo OPThirdWashDC@aol.com

May 1, 2007 -- His Eminence Jorge Maria Cardinal Mejia will be speaking on "The Family Now in the Church and in the World" at **St. Catherine of Siena in Great Falls, Virginia** at 7:30pm. A reception will follow the talk. More information is available here: <http://www.sienafallsmedia.com/stcatherine/CardinalMejia.pdf>.

July 16, 2007 -- Join us for the 3rd Annual Dominican Library *Save the Rare Books Golf Tournament* at Hidden Creek Country Club in Reston, Virginia. The Dominican Library, part of the Dominican House of Studies in Washington D.C., is home to over 5,000 rare books. The library is sponsoring this tournament to reorganize and preserve the entire collection.

More information and a registration form is available here: <http://www.sienafallsmedia.com/stcatherine/GolfTournament.pdf>. This event is sponsored by the St. Catherine of Siena Chapter in Great Falls, Virginia. Past tournaments have been well attended and a good time was had by all. What a great gift to give the golfer in your family!

Region 5 Chapter, St. Catherine of Siena, now has a presence on the internet. The chapter's website can be found at: <http://www.sienafallsmedia.com/stcatherine/>

Region Six Moni Massa moniconnects@earthlink.net

New chapter at the Kentucky State Reformatory. We have 9 Postulants and 8 studying to be received into the Chapter, *Our Lady, Queen of Peace*. The Deacon, Franco Cottrell, works with the guys and does a wonderful job teaching them about the Fraternity. In fact, he and his wife were received at the same time. They are part of the nine. It is amazing how dedicated those guys are. Some of them have come a long way from the time they were incarcerated. Fr. Guy Dupont, O.P. is the pro-chapter's Spiritual Promoter.

Mary Lou Gregory Mary.L.Gregory@ssa.gov



Fr. David Kammler, O.P. appointed Promoter General of the Laity



Fr. David Kammler, O.P. recently began his service as Promoter General of the Laity, replacing fr. Jerry Stookey, O.P.

Fr. David attended the International Lay Congress, March 2007, and began his term as General Promoter.



Question of Faith

The question on "What to do with the Lay Dominican 'inactives'?" was addressed by the Provincial Council that met the end of March. It adopted a norm to address inactive members dividing them into "excused" and "absent."

Excused members are those who are dispensed by the chapter from attendance "for serious reasons for a stated or indefinite period." The excused member would fulfill all Dominican obligations as best able and would retain membership in good standing with the chapter. Hopefully, the excused member will be able to return to their chapter, or attend when able.

The absent member has asked to be released from the chapter. The absent member may also have severed all relationships with the chapter and may have made no attempt to join another chapter, or stay in contact with the Family.

See the letter from our President, Dorothy Murphy, in the beginning of this issue, for more information.

Next month's Question: What is the difference between the Handbook, the Rule, and the Directory?

If you wish to answer, or have another Question of Faith, email Faith at r.f.flaherty@comcast.net

Dominican Rule & Commentary

By Raymond Di Bona, O.P.L.

Rule 5 Apostolic Mission* Rule 6 & 7 also deal with Apostolic Mission— to be continued in next issue

Supported by their mutual communion, in the example of Saint Dominic, St. Catherine of Siena, and our predecessors who have enlightened the life of the Order and the Church, we see that they witness their own Faith, attentive to the needs of people in their time and always serving the Truth.

The Dominican identity is not something abstract, but is like a culture in which we give ourselves in its institutional and communal embodiments. This Dominican identity is located in the Rule and in the institutions to which give rise to it and in our communities, both religious and lay. It is reflected in the Order's history by whose example we can follow as we strive to grow in holiness and become Dominican. Besides modeling ourselves on St. Dominic and St. Catherine of Siena, we should look to St. Thomas Aquinas and some of the relatively obscure Dominicans, like St. Margaret of Hungary and Blessed Giorgio Frassati. In the lives of these Dominicans, we will find the great loves that characterized their identity: love of truth, preaching the Gospel, Eucharistic piety and devotion to Mary. Mr. Raimondo Di Bona, O.P., Pro Chapter of the Boston Lay Fraternity of St. Dominic



Congratulations to our two new chapters in Boston, Massachusetts and LaGrange, Kentucky. (See Region One's Boston Pro-Chapter of the Fraternity of St. Dominic and Region Six's New Pro-Chapter at the Kentucky State Reformatory.)

Also congratulations to Agustin and Francisco upon their "adoption" into Our Lady of Mercy Chapter at MCI Norfolk, Mass. Agustin and Francisco live in Trenton, N.J. and their special circumstances required some creative solutions to some difficult issues. (See Region One)

Congratulations are in order to our newly elected and reelected Provincial Council Officers:

Provincial Council President – Dorothy Murphy was postulated for another three year term.

Provincial Council Vice-President – Mary Hurley was elected to a second three year term

Secretary – Anna Donnelly was elected to another three year term.

Treasurer – Ray Biszko was elected to a three year first term.

Delegate to the DLIPC – Arvin Gallanosa was elected to a three year first term.

Alternate Delegate to the DLIPC – George Bell was elected to a three year first term.

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De Profundis

One of the nice traditions in the Dominican Family is our regular prayers for our dead. Please have a Mass celebrated for all the deceased members of the Dominican Laity in the Province of St. Joseph, USA, and in particular for our brothers and sisters below. I also ask everyone to pray one Rosary for our deceased members.

NAME: RICHARD KUMMER

CHAPTER: St. Catherine of Siena Chapter
LOCATION OF CHAPTER: Tom's River, N.J.
DATE OF DEATH: February 3, 2007

NAME: SISTER MARGARET MARY, O.P.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR: St. Catherine of Siena Chapter
LOCATION OF CHAPTER: Tom's River, N.J.
DATE OF DEATH: April 20, 2007

NAME: MARGARET M. SCHAEFER

RELIGIOUS NAME: Imelda
CHAPTER: Immaculate Heart Chapter
LOCATION OF CHAPTER: Buffalo, New York
DATE OF DEATH: April 8, 2007
DATE OF FINAL PROMISE: December 20, 1953

NAME: JEAN V. MURPHY

RELIGIOUS NAME: Thomas Francis
CHAPTER: Sacred Heart Chapter
LOCATION OF CHAPTER: Rahway, N.J.
DATE OF DEATH: March 31, 2007
DATE OF FINAL PROMISE: June 18, 1980

NAME: AGNES F. TRYANKOWSKI

RELIGIOUS NAME: Margaret Costello
CHAPTER: Immaculate Heart Chapter
LOCATION OF CHAPTER: Buffalo, N.Y.
DATE OF DEATH: April 15, 2007
DATE OF FINAL PROMISE: June 28, 1998

NAME: NICHOLAS A. PIPERATO

RELIGIOUS NAME: Bro. Nicholas Augustine
CHAPTER: Most Holy Rosary Chapter
LOCATION OF CHAPTER: Newburgh, NY
DATE OF DEATH: April 19, 2007
DATE OF FINAL PROMISE: June 7, 1998

NAME: JEAN C. WILKIE

CHAPTER: Our Lady of Fatima Chapter
LOCATION OF CHAPTER: House of Studies, Washington, D.C.
DATE OF DEATH: March 31, 2007
A memorial Mass will be offered at Trinity University
on Saturday, May 5, 2007 at 11:00 AM.
(Priests interested in concelebrating the Mass need to contact
Sister Mary Hayes, SND at Trinity at 202-884-9247.)

Please send the names of those who have died to r.f.flaherty@comcast.net, so that they can be included in our continued prayers for the dead.

Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us.

Our Holy Father Dominic pray for us.

St. Catherine of Siena, pray for us.

* * * * *

IGNITE YOUR *TORCH*
Catholic Youth Conference
July 26-29, 2007



The St. Martin de Porres Fraternity in New Hope, Kentucky, is sponsoring its third **IGNITE YOUR TORCH** Catholic Youth Conference, July 26-29, 2007, on the campus of Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky. Information about the upcoming event and news about past events is available at www.igniteyourtorch.org.

This event involves all branches of the Dominican Family. This year Dominican participants will be Fr. Giles Dimock, O.P., Fr. Stephen Dominic Hayes, O.P., Dominican student brothers, Nashville and Hawthorne Dominican sisters, two Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic (New Hope and Louisville), two Clerical Fraternity members, Msgr. Anthony la Femina and Fr. Anthony Mendoza. Some events will be held at St. Louis Bertrand Priory in cooperation with the Friars and the parish youth ministry. Last year we had over 230 participants including youth from ten states and four foreign countries. We expect over 250 for the upcoming event.

Please pray for the success of **IGNITE YOUR TORCH**.

Theo Stearns tstearns@scrtc.com

Prayers Requested

From Summit New Jersey Dominican Nuns Blog - update on Solomon Islands via Therese Errigo



Bishop Chris Cardone, OP, is a long time friend of our monastery. We have known him since he entered the Order and comes almost yearly for a visit. His episcopal ordination was an occasion of great joy for the people of the Solomon Islands, the Order, and his friends and family. At Bishop Chris' Ordination Mass, the Gospel procession took 20 minutes as men carried the Gospel book on an overturned canoe! Why a canoe? Because the people of the Solomon's remember that the Word of God came to them via a canoe!

Please pray for our Dominican Brothers and Sisters in Gizo Island and for the all the people who are suffering from the tsunami.

Dear Dominic and brothers,
Greetings from AUKI !

Auki Diocese Church

Right now all is well here in my diocese but the Dominican Diocese of Gizo is in GREAT strife.

Early this morning there was a huge earthquake in Guadalcanal. Then a few hours later at approx 8 am Solomon time a series of 4 tidal waves struck the Western Province. At this point it seems that all friars and sisters are OK but the houses and mission stations have washed away. Most houses and buildings were washed out to sea. The Sister's Motherhouse in Loga was washed away and the brothers' house mostly destroyed. A nearby Gizo village called Nusubaruku was also destroyed.

Thankfully, it all occurred in daylight and it is a bright sunny day. I will send more news. The internet site for our local newspaper is www.solomonstarnews.com and that should have more up to date news and even photos. All just happened and there is lots of need. Keep us in your prayers.

+Chris Cardone, OP, Bishop

Here are some links which detail the destruction wreaked by the tsunami. We stand in solidarity with our Dominican Family there. Let us pray that the power of Our Lord and Savior strengthen, heal, and give hope to our family there.

Earthquake in the Western Solomons

http://jp.op.org/site/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=63&Itemid=2

Dominican Solomon Island Relief Fund

http://jp.op.org/site/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=64&Itemid=2



Dialogue

*From “The Prayers of Catherine of Siena” 2nd Edition,
Suzanne Noffke, OP, Translator and Editor,
from Prayer 18, Feast of the Annunciation,
March 25, 1379, At Rome*

“Catherine does not often speak of Mary at great length in her writings, but what references there are, evidence a warm and devoted regard for her.”

Following are some excerpts from this prayer.

***Oh Mary!
Mary!
Temple of the Trinity!
Oh Mary, bearer of the fire!
Mary, minister of mercy!
Mary, seed bed of the fruit!
Mary, redemptress of the human race—
for the world was redeemed
when in the Word your own flesh suffered.
Christ redeemed us by his Passion
and you, by your grief of body and spirit.
Oh Mary, peaceful sea!
Mary, giver of peace!
Mary, fertile soil!
You, Mary, are the new-sprung plant
from whom we have the fragrant blossom,
the Word, God’s only-begotten Son,
for in you, fertile soil,
was this Word sown.
You are the soil
and you are the plant.
Oh, Mary, chariot of fire,
you bore the fire
hidden and veiled
under the ashes of your humanness.
Oh Mary, vessel of humility!
In you the light of true knowledge
thrives and burns.
By this light
you rose above yourself,
and so you were pleasing to the eternal Father,
and he seized you and drew you to himself,
loving you with a special love.***

**With this light
and with the fire of your charity
and with the oil of your humility
you drew his divinity
to stoop to come into you—
though even before that
he was drawn by the blazing fire
of his own boundless charity
to come to us.**

**.....You, oh Mary,
have been made a book
in which our rule is written today.
In you today
is written the eternal Father's wisdom;
in you today
our human strength and freedom are revealed.
I say that our human dignity is revealed
because if I look at you, Mary,
I see that the Holy Spirit's hand
has written the Trinity in you
by forming within you
the incarnate Word, God's only-begotten Son.
He has written for us the Father's wisdom,
which this Word is;
he has written power for us,
because he was powerful enough
to accomplish this great mystery;
and he has written for us
his own—the Holy Spirit's—mercy,
for by divine grace and mercy alone
was such a great mystery
ordained and accomplished.**

**.....Oh Mary,
my tenderest love!
In you is written the Word
from whom we have
the teaching of life.
You are the tablet
that sets this teaching before us.....
....Oh Mary,
may you be proclaimed
blessed among all women
for endless ages,
for today you have shared with us
your flour.**

**Today the Godhead is joined
and kneaded into one dough
with our humanity—
so securely
that this union could never be broken,
either by death
or by our thanklessness.**

**The relationship was so entered into
and sealed
That it never will be dissolved.....Amen**

kwsmith@optonline.net

Mrs. Karolyn Whitney Smith, O.P.



* * * * *

LAST CALL

for the 3rd Annual Dominican Poetry Contest

Submissions are being accepted thru June 1, 2007.

This year's theme is "Preaching the Beatitudes."

Details – <http://www.oprize.com>

Email: oprizeforpoetry@hotmail.com

* * * * *

The June Issue

we will feature more pictures
from the Lay Dominican Congress
that took place in
Argentina during March.



**News???? Any chapter or regional news, email submissions
to your Regional Editor See *eLumen* Credits.**

**Stories, articles, poems, photographs, essays, etc.?????????
go to Mary Fisk at the Dominican Torch:
maryfisk2006@comcast.net or send by snail mail to
11411 Glen Rd., Potomac, MD 20854.**

Thank you.

• *Credits*

eLumen Credits:

Fr. Juan-Diego Brunetta, O.P. Provincial Promoter juandiego@op.org
Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic – Province of St. Joseph, USA

Dorothy Murphy Provincial Council President redceltop@starpower.net

Editorial Staff:

Faith Flaherty Managing Editor r.f.flaherty@comcast.net
Helen Tice Layout & Design Editor hatlady45@comcast.net

Faith Flaherty	Region 1	r.f.flaherty@comcast.net
Anna Donnelly	Region 2	Donnella@stjohns.edu
Donna Smith	Region 3	covicon123@yahoo.com
George Bell	Region 4	dominicanvocations@hotmail.com
Therese Errigo	Region 5	OPThirdWashDC@aol.com
Mary Cantwell	Region 6	MDLCJTC@aol.com

Contributing Writers:

Raimondo Di Bona	Dominican Rule and Commentary
Karolyn Smith	Dialogue

