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New prior vice-provincial of the vice-province of Bolivia

The III Vice-Provincial Chapter of the Vice-Province of Bolivia, meeting on 21 July 2021 in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, elected on 25 July Brother Yinmy

CABALLERO SUARES, OP as the new Vice-Provincial Prior.

Yinmy CABALLERO SUARES, was born in 1980 in Comarapa, in the valleys of the department of Santa Cruz. He made his first profession in 2002, in what was then the vicariate of Fray Vicente Bernedo, belonging to the province of Teutonia.

He obtained a civil degree in theology from the San Pablo Faculty of Theology of the Catholic University of Bolivia. He also holds a degree in civil law from the Universidad Domingo Savio. He was ordained a priest on 29 June 2007.

He has been parochial vicar of the parish of St. Dominic in Santa Cruz since 2011. In 2012 he was elected as the first prior of the convent of St. Dominic in Santa Cruz and re-elected to the same position in 2015.

On 26 January 2017 he was elected as the second previous vice-provincial since the erection of the vice-province. On 25 July 2021, the feast of St. James the Apostle, he was re-elected Prior Vice-Provincial of the Vice-Province of Bolivia for the next four years. The election was confirmed by fr Gerard Francisco Timoner III, Master of the Order of Preachers. Bro Yinmy took the oath of fidelity and made the profession of faith in the parish of St. Dominic in front of the capitulars and all those who wanted to join them. The ceremony was broadcast live on Facebook and Youtube.

We ask the Lord to generously pour out the grace of His Spirit on our brother Yinmy. ■



1 Br. Yinmy CABALLERO SUARES, OP, Vice-Province of Bolivia.

Dies Natalis, Homily of the Master of the Order



2 In lieu of the usual letter, Br. Gerard Francisco Timoner III OP, shares with the Dominican Family his homily on the Solemnity of our Holy Father St. Dominic celebrated in the Basilica of San Domenico, Bologna, where our founder and first brother spent

6 August 2021

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We gather around the table of the Eucharist, the table of communion and thanksgiving, in order to give thanks to God for the gift of St. Dominic of Caleruega, for the blessed life and unique mission which the Lord bestowed on him.

As Pope Francis has eloquently written in his letter to the Order in commemoration of the 8th centenary of the birth of St. Dominic into eternal life, among the titles attributed to St. Dominic, Praedicator gratiae, “preacher of grace” stands out for its consonance with the charism and mission of the Order he founded (PG 1)

This is our gift to the Church: the “grace of preaching” and the “preaching of grace” i.e., the proclamation of God, Uncreated Grace, who gives Himself to humanity. By cultivating and sharing these charism and mission, Dominic became Light of the Church (Lumen Ecclesiae) and Teacher of Truth (Doctor Veritatis). He is among those whom Isaiah praises: “how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace!” (Isaiah 52:7) Indeed, he dedicated his entire life to the preaching of the Gospel, “whether convenient or inconvenient,

constantly teaching and never losing patience” (2 Timothy 4:2).

Many years ago, I attended a gathering of brothers and sisters in initial formation from different religious congregations. I proudly introduced myself as a Dominican. In jest, one participant replied: “Dominican? You are medieval!” I retorted/riposted with a smile: “We are not medieval, we are classical!”

A “classic” is something at once timely and timeless. St. Dominic embraced a mission that is timely, because he saw a world in dire need of a new evangelization. Yet the same mission is truly timeless, because every generation is in want of a new evangelization, i.e., the preaching of God who is ever ancient, yet ever new. It is timely because he offered a relevant response to the specific situation, but also timeless because it has become an event transcending its occurrence and ever meaningful at every moment of history.

“Speaking either with God or about God”[i], St. Dominic embodied a synergy of contemplation and action, an exemplar par excellence of a disciple-missionary, called to follow the Way and sent to preach the Gospel. Indeed, St. Dominic has “something to say” to all times and places because the Gospel that formed and transformed his life is classical. Medieval yet contemporary, ancient yet ever new — that is St. Dominic — truly classical!

Exactly three hundred years after St. Dominic died, Ignatius of Loyola read the biographies of St. Francis and St. Dominic and experienced the grace of conversion. If Dominic inspired a man who lived hundreds of years after him to become a saint, then Dominic can be a source of inspiration for all of us even and especially today. (Fra Massimo Fussarelli OFM, the new Minister General of the OFM, is concelebrating with us in this Eucharistic celebration. Thus, we can say that “Francis” visited “Dominic” today here in Bologna.)

What does St. Dominic have to say to us, to the Church, to the world, as we confront the problems of indifference, clericalism, divisions, false news, hopelessness?

In a time that is marked by indifference, especially towards the suffering-other, Dominic preached misericordia veritatis, the mercy of truth. We recall that while he was a student at Palencia, Dominic

stood on the frontier between life and death: he was moved with compassion for those who were suffering and dying during a severe famine, so he sold his precious books and “established a center for almsgiving where the poor could be fed”... his exemplary kindness inspired others to do the same.[ii] And so, with a compassionate heart Dominic preached misericordia veritatis,[iii] the mercy of truth perfectly manifested in Christ, misericordiæ Vultus, “the face of the Father’s mercy”[iv]. Mercy is love that seeks to alleviate the pain of the other. As Pope Benedict once reminded us: “the greatest act of charity is evangelization... There is no action more beneficial – and therefore more charitable – towards one’s neighbor than to break the bread of the word of God, to share with him the Good News of the Gospel, to introduce him to a relationship with God”.[v]

At a time when clericalism seemed to obscure the evangelical meaning of diakonia as imitation of Jesus who came “to serve and not be served”, Dominic grounded the diakonia of preaching on fraternal communion. The charism of preaching he received propelled Dominic to remind the Church of her universal mission to preach the Gospel, that preaching is a mission, not of a few chosen ones, but of all members of the Church. It is a charism shared by all the members of the Dominican family: friars (clerics and cooperator brothers), nuns, apostolic sisters, priestly fraternity and lay Dominicans – all the states of life in the Church. Thus, Dominic, who preached *verbis et exemplo*, opened the possibility for the manifold life and witness of disciples-missionaries and their varied works, such as the writings of Catherine of Siena, the paintings of Fra Angelico, the loving service to others of Rose of Lima, John Macias, Margaret of Città di Castello, Pier Giorgio Frassati, and so many others, to be considered as important forms of preaching the Gospel. As one wise cooperator brother said: We are not an Order of homilists, but an order of preachers!

At a time when the Church, the Body of Christ, was wounded by divisions and discord, Dominic envisioned a communitarian form of government that promotes inclusion and participation in discernment and decision-making. Chapters on various levels provide space for conversing with brothers and confronting the challenges which they face, for seeking consensus on divisive matters, for

discerning the best possible ways to serve the mission of the Order at a particular moment and place, and more importantly, for mutual listening and learning, as brothers. Pope Francis affirmed that “this “synodal” process enabled the Order to adapt its life and mission to changing historical contexts while maintaining fraternal communion” (PG, 6)

At a time when error and fake news sowed confusion and misled many, Dominic sent his brothers to the emerging universities in Europe. He knew the importance of sound and solid theological formation that is based on Sacred Scripture and attentive to questions posed by the times. Such conviction has led the succeeding generation of friars to the frontier where faith meets reason as companions on the path to truth. Our brothers Thomas Aquinas and Albert the Great stood on such a frontier and found confidence in their harmony and produced an abundant harvest for the philosophical and theological heritage of the Church. The intellectual mission of the Order and its mission to preach *Veritas* is an important antidote to another pernicious pandemic — fake news, half-truths, which are in fact half-lies.

In these trying times where people seem to be lost in despair, St. Dominic offers us *spem miram*, a wonderful hope! Our song of hope commemorates the moment, eight hundred years ago here in Bologna, when Dominic passed from this world, a time when the brothers had tears in their eyes — *O spem miram quam dedisti mortis hora te flentibus*. Dominic stirred hope in their hearts because he promised to continue to be helpful to the brothers and sisters, he vowed to intercede for us, and, therefore, to abide with us by his prayers. But this is just one side of the story. The presence of the praying brothers at the hour of his death must have also given hope to Dominic. At that final moment of human finitude, Dominic was not alone. The presence of the brothers and Dominic’s promised presence beyond death gave them hope and consolation. Ultimately, hope is grounded on the certainty that God will never abandon us. Hope is the assurance that God abides in the “mysteries of joy, sorrow, glory and light” of our lives. Hope is Christ in us (1 Col. 27).

O *Spem Miram*! Dominic boldly promised to be useful to us because he had great hope that he will

be closer to Christ, in the communion of the blessed.

Five years ago, Pope Francis visited St. Dominic here in Bologna. In his letter to the Order, he said: I prayed in a special way for the Order of Preachers, imploring for its members the grace of perseverance in fidelity to their founding charism and to the splendid tradition of which they are heirs. In thanking the Saint for all the good that his sons and daughters accomplish in the Church, I asked, as a particular gift, for a considerable increase of priestly and religious vocations.

In like manner I also wish to offer my prayer for the Dominican family here in Bologna and all over the world:

*O Lord our God, Creator of the world, Giver of life.
Eight hundred years ago,*

*It pleased you to receive St. Dominic into eternity,
and to establish the Holy Preaching all over the world.
O Spem miram! YOU O LORD are the wonderful HOPE,
promised by Dominic, as our constant Companion,
in the holy endeavor of spreading and growing Your WORD,
over lands, across the sea, beyond the horizons of our vision.*

*As we celebrate the Jubilee
of the dies natalis of St. Dominic into eternal life
feed us and fill us with a double portion of the SPIRIT,
so that we may experience a new Pentecost –
a renewed proclamation of the “mighty acts of God”
and rekindled commitment to our mission
for the “salvation of souls”.*

*Bless our brothers and sisters
and the entire Dominican Family,
with health, happiness and holiness.
Lead them to ever serve your people.
Gather them all to Yourself,
in praise and thanks eternal.
Through Mary’s plea;
in Jesus’ name. Amen. ■*

**Brother Gerard Francisco Timoner III,
OP
Master of the Order**

[I] FUNDAMENTAL CONSTITUTION OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS, II.

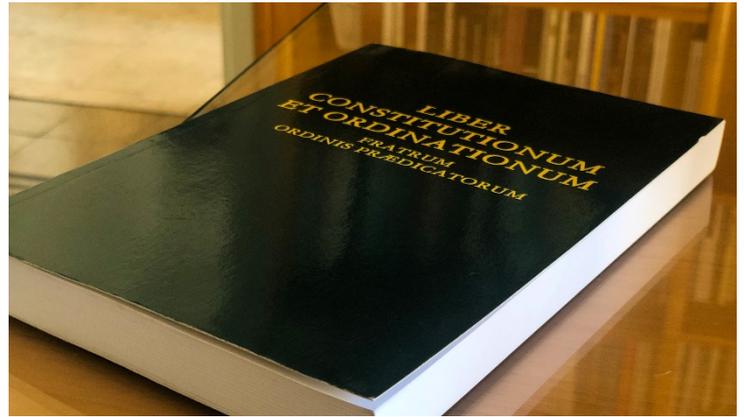
[II] JORDAN OF SAXONY, LIBELLUS, 10.

[III] ACTS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER OF PROVIDENCE (2001) 107.

[IV] FRANCIS, BULL OF INDICATION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY MISERICORDIÆ VULTUS (11 APRIL 2015), 1.

[V] BENEDICT XVI, MESSAGE FOR LENT 2013, NO. 3.

2021 Constitutions published



3 Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers

The 2021 edition of the Constitutions of the Dominican Friars has been published.

The new official Latin edition, formally entitled *Liber Constitutionum et Ordinationum Fratrum Ordinis Prædicatorum* (Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers) contains all the changes made up to and including the General Chapter of Biên Hòa celebrated in 2019.

Copies can be ordered directly from lulu.com at:

<https://www.lulu.com/search?contributor=Ordo+Pr%C3%A6dicatorum>

The volume can also be ordered from other physical or online bookstores in hardback (ISBN 9781716775390) and paperback (ISBN 9781716775413). Enquiries about bulk discounts can be directed to the Procurator General.

A PDF version is available from the “Documents” section of the following website: www.op.org

New Prior Provincial of the Province of Ireland



4 Seated from left to right: Fr David Tohill OP, Fr Benedict Moran OP, Fr Joseph O'Brien OP, Fr Donal Sweeney OP. Back row: Fr David Barrins OP, Fr Conor McDonough OP, Fr John Harris OP (Prior Provincial), Fr Joseph Bulman OP and Fr Maurice Colgan OP.

Brother John Martin Harris, OP, was elected Prior Provincial of the Irish Province of the Dominicans on 4 August 2021 during the Chapter held at St. Mary's Convent, Tallaght, Ireland. Following his confirmation by Brother Gerard Timoner III, OP, Master of the Order of Preachers, Br. John accepted his election and made the Profession of Faith.

Brother John was born to Ella and Jackie Harris in Limerick City, Ireland, on 5 May 1963. His family always attended the Dominican church in Limerick, and, beginning at the age of seven, Br. John served Mass in the conventual church. He applied to join the Order after finishing secondary school, was accepted into the pre-novitiate in 1980, made solemn profession in 1985 and was ordained a priest on 7 August 1988.

Brother John began his theological studies in 1982 at the Dominican Studium at St. Mary's Priory, Tallaght, Ireland. Thereafter, he was sent to University College Dublin, where he received his BA (Hons) in Philosophy and Politics in 1986, and then to the Pontifical University of St. Thomas (Angelicum), Rome, Italy, where he concluded his undergraduate studies in Theology. In 1992, Br. John earned his STL from the Angelicum after writing a thesis entitled *The Laity: The Church in Politics*. In 1999, he was assigned to the convent at San Clemente, Rome, to begin his doctoral studies. Br. John received his STD in 2004, having written a thesis entitled *Ethics in Constitutional Law: A*

Theological Reflection on the Preamble to the Irish Constitution under the direction of Brother Wojciech Giertych, OP, Theologian of the Papal Household.

Brother John was assigned to the community in Drogheda, Ireland, in 1992, upon completing his STL in Rome. While in Drogheda, he worked in the church, was part of the chaplaincy team serving the nuns of the Monastery of St. Catherine of Siena, embarked on a ministry as a retreat master and began preaching parish missions throughout Ireland and the United Kingdom. In 1996, he was posted to Tallaght to teach ecclesiology at the Studium, where he became Secretary of Studies in 1997 and continued to teach various courses. Br. John was selected as Moderator of Institutional Studies at the Studium in Dublin in 2004. In 2008, he was named Regent of Studies for the Province of Ireland. While serving as Regent, he was also a member of the Irish Bishops Committee on Bioethics, the National Spiritual Director of Youth 2000 Ireland, and a member of the Board of Directors of Spirit Radio. In 2016, after discharging his mandate as Regent, Br. John was elected prior of the convent in Newbridge, Ireland. While there, he also was rector of the public church, served as part of the chaplaincy team for the 900 students of Dominican College and continued his preaching mission throughout Ireland, the USA and Canada.

We commend to your prayers our brother's service to the Order and to the Church. ■

New Prior Provincial of the Province of Our Lady of the Rosary



5 Br Ruben Martinez Ortega, OP

Brother Rubén Martínez Ortega, OP, has been elected Prior Provincial at the Provincial Chapter held at the Royal Monastery of St. Thomas Aquinas in Avila, Spain, on 5 August 2021. Following the confirmation by the Pro-Vicar of the Master of the Order, Brother Benjamin Earl, OP, Br.

Rubén accepted the election and made the Profession of Faith.

Born on 23 August 1962 in Mazariegos, Palencia, in Spain, Br. Rubén completed his Bachelors studies from the College of Our Lady of the Rosary in Valladolid from 1972 to 1980, underwent the novitiate formation at the Convent of St. Dominic in Ocaña, Toledo, and made his first profession on 21 September 1982.

His initial formation was in the Provincial School of the Covent of St. Peter Martyr in Madrid, Spain, where he did his studies in Philosophy from 1980 to 1983, and his studies in Theology from 1983 to 1987. Having completed his studies, he was ordained a deacon in the year 1986. The following year on June 27 he was ordained a priest at the same convent.

Being a member of the missionary Province of Our Lady of the Rosary, one of the big challenges and requirements was to master the languages where one is assigned. The desire to relate and to reach out to people depends to a large extent on the medium of communication in the place and country of assignation. So, he had made it his mission to master the required languages to carry on his mission and his ministry. He had mastered English language from Edinburg, England, Mandarin Chinese language from Taiwan, and the Tetum language of East Timor. A true Polyglot, he also speaks Portuguese.

After completing his military service from 1988 to 1989, he was assigned to Taiwan where he held the following responsibilities: Parish Priest at the Immaculate Conception Church of Tainan from 1992 to 2000; Vicar Provincial from 2000 to 2008; Parish Priest at the national shrine and Basilica of the Immaculate in Bamkim from 2001 to 2013; and Coordinator of the Dominican Family in Taiwan from 2005 to 2007.

In 2013, he was subsequently sent as one of the founding friars of the mission in East Timor where, until his election as Prior Provincial, he exercised the following ministries: Parochial Vicar in a parish of the Diocese of Dili in Hato-Udo; Vicar of the Provincial in the mission from 2013 to 2021; formator of the students from East Timor; Superior of the community of St. Dominic at Dili, East Timor from 2017 to 2020; and chaplain of one of the Universities where he also taught Ethics. He has

also organized the Dominican Sisters, Dominican Youth groups, and Rosary Groups in East Timor.

Having visited most of the countries where his Province has apostolic presence, he certainly comes with considerable experience. A true missionary, he is now entrusted with the responsibility of shepherding the Mission Province for the next four years. We commend to your prayers our brother's service to the Order and to the Church. ■

At Table with St. Dominic and Louis Joseph Lebre



6 Br. Louis Joseph Lebre, O.P. (1897-1966). Mascarella Table (c.1240), Bologna. "Dies Natalis" Sancti Dominici (1221-2021).

The Order of Preachers is celebrating the Eighth Centenary of the Dies Natalis of St Dominic, that is to say, the anniversary of his death in the course of the year from 6 January 2021 to 6 January 2022.

The theme for the jubilee celebration is At Table with St. Dominic, which is inspired by the Mascarella table, the table on which the first portrait of St. Dominic was painted shortly after his canonisation. Thus, we will celebrate St. Dominic not as a saint alone on a pedestal, but a saint enjoying fellowship at table with his brothers, gathered by the same vocation to preach God's Word and sharing God's gift of food and drink.

Our jubilee celebration invites us to reflect on these questions: What does it mean for us to be at table with St. Dominic here and now (hic et nunc)? How does his life and work inspire and encourage us to share our life, our faith, hope and love, our spiritual and material goods so that others too may be nourished at this same table? How does this table become a table for the breaking of the Word and the Bread of Life? (Timoner, 2020)

One of the questions posed by the current Master of the Order of Preachers, Br Gerard Francisco Timoner III, is “How do his life and work inspire us to share our lives, our faith, hope and love, our spiritual and material goods, so that others may be nourished at this same table?”

Beyond doubt, part of the reflection on and answer to this question about the lay, religious and committed vocation in following Jesus is to think of the figure of Br Louis Joseph Lebret, a French Dominican who, through his contributions, shared – at table – his research and work on human economy.

Remembering Lebret on the occasion of his Dies Natalis Jubilee (1966-2021), this is a time of grace that allows us to reflect on Master Gerard’s question.

Lebret’s life, vocation and work have inspired a number of research studies and contributions on human development in various parts of the world, especially in Latin America. His contributions on the progress of peoples, starting from real, concrete experiences, are a mark of the preaching of the Gospel in accordance with the charisma and spirituality of the Order of Preachers. There is a harmony in the bringing together of the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity, with fraternal life, study, prayer and preaching. In the words of Thomas Aquinas, it is a matter of *Contemplari et contemplata aliis tradere* – contemplating and giving to others the fruits of contemplation (cf. *Summa Theologiae*, II-II, 188, a.6).

It is being *Facientes Humanitatem* – Makers of Humanity – in order to contemplate reality and thus seek a way of dignifying the human being, allowing her/his human ascension or, as Pope Francis reminds us in his recent letter *Prædicator Gratiae*, on the occasion of the Dies Natalis of St Dominic:

The Gospel message of our inalienable human dignity as children of God and members of the one human family challenges the Church in our own day to strengthen the bonds of social friendship, to overcome unjust economic and political structures, and to work for the integral development of every individual and people. (Francis, 2021)

Today as in the past, Lebret’s legacy has permeated human economy, and continues his study – intellectual apostolate – and development in various educational centres and institutions that contribute with Dominican humanism to the Magisterium of the Church, in that Integral Human Development is a mark of an economy that promotes the common good, which means promoting the values and rights of every individual to live with dignity (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 107).

Br. Juan Ubaldo López Salamanca,
OP[1]
20 July 2021
On the 55th anniversary of the Dies
Natalis of Fr Lebret

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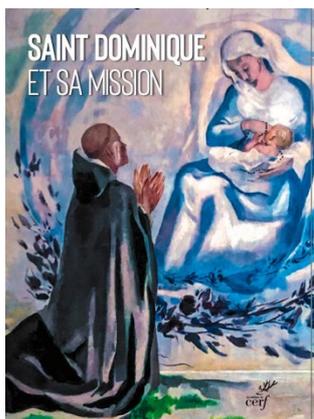
Francis (2020), *Fratelli Tutti*, Encyclical letter on Fraternity and Social Friendship, accessed on <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/>

Timoner, G. (2020). To the Dominican Family on the preparation of the 2021 Jubilee, accessed on <https://www.op.org/to-the-dominican-family-on-the-preparation-of-the-2021-jubilee/>

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, accessed on <https://www.newadvent.org/summa/>

[1] Juan Ubaldo López Salamanca, Dominican friar. Promoter General of the Laity of the Order of Preachers (2019- present, Rome, Italy), Rector General of the Santo Tomás University of Columbia (2015-2019). Email: ubaldolop8@gmail.com ■

Publications in the context of the Jubilee



In the past forty years, studies of Dominic and of the birth of his Order have been profoundly renewed, especially in France, Great Britain and Italy. To the benefit of research in these areas, the written accounts of the history of the beginnings of the Dominicans were collected in a learned, wide-ranging

volume by Nicole Bérieu and Bernard Hodel (*Saint Dominique de l'ordre des frères prêcheurs*, Cerf, 2019, 1768 pp.). An edition of the Dominican sources has also been published this year in Italy (Domenico di Caleruega. *Le fonti del XIII secolo*, Agostino Paravicini Bagliani, Gianni Festa e Francesco Santi (eds.), SISMEL, Firenze, 2021). What was still missing, however, was a new account of the origins, a key that was at once historically reliable and easy to use for all those who are interested in Dominican history and who want to discover Dominic and his work.

In the year which marks the eighth centenary of the death of St Dominic (1221), this book offers a life of St Dominic based on the mediaeval sources, but also a presentation of his mission as it was seen in the Middle Ages and as it has never ceased to be renewed down to our own time. A novelty of the book is that it also offers a rich iconography of the Father of the Preachers taken from original sources.

The life, the message and the images of St Dominic show him to the reader in a new light. The text is currently being translated into Spanish and English.

As for Sr Paola, of the Monastery of Crea, in her book *Nascosto nella luce* (Hidden in Light), in Italian, she shows us the figure of St Dominic

through an approach inspired by the memories and the direct experience of two of Dominic's first disciples: Jordan of Saxony, his first successor as Master of the Order, and Sr Cecilia, one of the first nuns of the monastery in Rome, which subsequently was transferred to Bologna.

Br Julián de Cos Pérez de Camino has also contributed to the Jubilee with his book in Spanish *Historia de la espiritualidad dominicana*, in which he presents the founder's life in the form of a summary of the spirituality of Dominic and of his Order and a rich historical overview of the separate branches of the Order, individuals, authors, topics, problems, etc. This 350-page book was published by the author himself, and can be downloaded free of charge, in PDF and ePub form, at <https://www.dominicos.org/estudio/recurso/predicadores-historia-de-la-espiritualidad-dominicana/>

Gianni Festa and Augustin Laffay, *San Domenico. Padre dei Predicatori. La vita, la santità, l'eredità*; Introduction by Gerard Francisco Timoner III, Master of the Order etc., Edizioni San Domenico, Bologna, 2021, 20 €.

ISBN 978-88-5545-023-2

Gianni Festa and Augustin Laffay, *Saint Dominique et sa mission*, preface by Gerard Francisco Timoner III, Éditions du Cerf, Paris, 2021, 20 €.

ISBN 978-2-204-14588-6

Paola Panetta, *Nascosto nella luce*, by Gerard Francisco Timoner III, Master of the Order, Edizioni Velar, 64 pp, €7, <https://www.velar.it/libro/nascosto-nella-luce/>

Julián de Cos Pérez de Camino, *Historia de la espiritualidad dominicana*, <https://www.dominicos.org/estudio/recurso/predicadores-historia-de-la-espiritualidad-dominicana/> ■

The Patroness of Colombia in the Vatican City Gardens



On 9 July last, an image of the Virgin of the Rosary of Chiquinquirá was placed in the Vatican Gardens, on the occasion of the 102nd anniversary of her coronation as Queen and Patroness of Colombia. The mosaic, composed of more than 70,000 pieces of marble, stone and glass, and in which she appears accompanied by St. Andrew and St. Anthony, now stands among all the other Marian invocations of Latin America and the Caribbean in the so-called Bastion of the Master.

The ceremony was attended by Cardinal Giuseppe Bertello, President of the Governorate of Vatican City; Monsignor Mauricio Rueda Beltz, Undersecretary of the Third Section of the Secretariat of State; Jorge Mario Eastman Robledo, Ambassador of Colombia to the Holy See; fr Diego Orlando Serna Salazar, O.P., Prior Provincial of the Dominican Friars in Colombia; fr Carlos Mario Alzate Montes, O.P., rector of the National Marian Sanctuary, where the original canvas rests, as well as priests, religious men and women belonging to the Order of Preachers, Colombian citizens residing in Rome and special guests representing the Colombian people.

The image is a representation of Colombia in the most important place for Catholics and an opportunity to highlight the validity of a devotion that has accompanied the country for more than 400 years as a spiritual, cultural and symbolic icon.

"This mosaic of the Virgin of the Rosary of Chiquinquirá is, from this moment on, a little piece of Colombia in the heart of Christianity and a memorable symbol of what has been part of our national history, because just as it has happened to many of our fellow citizens, the Virgin's canvas has

also been discarded, trampled, forgotten and mistreated. It has suffered and accompanied the Colombian people in the pandemics and wars, in the struggles for independence and in the efforts to achieve peace, it was the object of the violence and dispossession that many of our brothers and sisters have also suffered", said Bro Diego Orlando Serna.

The Virgin of Chiquinquirá is one of the most important religious figures in Colombia. Her protagonism in national life is so great that even historical figures from different periods have asked for her protection. Gustavo Rojas Pinilla decorated her with the Cross of Boyacá; Simón Bolívar entrusted her with the liberation campaign, and Marcos Fidel Suárez named her Queen of Colombia. ■

Province of Portugal Marks Dominican Jubilee with Admission of Cardinal in the Priestly Fraternities



7 Admission of Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça in the Priestly Fraternities.

In a solemn rite celebrated during the vespers of 4 August 2021, Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça, theologian and poet, archivist, and librarian of the Holy Roman Church, became a member of the Dominican Family by making profession in the Priestly Fraternities of St. Dominic.

With various representatives of the Dominican Family in Portugal witnessing the occasion, the Cardinal received the habit of the friars from the hands of fr. José Nunes, OP, Prior Provincial of the Province of Portugal, before whom he also made profession to follow the Rule of the fraternities for his whole life.

Following his reception into the Order, the Cardinal delivered a conference on the theme of the Jubilee. All these took place at the convent of St. Dominic in Lisbon as the Province of Portugal celebrates the 800th anniversary of the dies natalis of the Order's founder, St. Dominic. In his lecture, he evoked St. Dominic as a man who "lived intensely" and knew how to create a table of "companions on mission". He also stated that the initial impulse of the Order of Preachers gave great importance to a knowledge that is more than that of erudition and took into account "the conditions in which men live, the condition of the poorest", with particular attention to the "popular classes". Therefore, he stressed, St. Dominic is remembered by many as Europe's first "Minister of Education".

Born on 15 December 1965 in Funchal, in the island of Madeira, Cardinal José Tolentino was ordained a priest on 28 July 1990. He went on to pursue biblical studies at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, the Catholic University of Portugal in Lisbon, and the Straus Institute for the Advanced Study of Law and Justice in New York. On 26 June 2018, Pope Francis appointed him as archivist and librarian of the Holy Roman Church, elevating him at the same time to the titular see of Suava, with the dignity of archbishop. He subsequently received episcopal ordination in Lisbon on 28 July of the same year.

Among his previous ministries include serving as rector of the Pontifical Portuguese College in Rome, as well as professor at the Faculty of Theology, and later on vice-rector, of the Catholic University of Portugal in Lisbon. He was created and proclaimed Cardinal by Pope Francis in the consistory of 5 October 2019, of the Deaconry of Santi Domenico e Sisto. He is a member of the Pontifical Councils for Culture as well as of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. As he joined the family of St. Dominic, Cardinal José Tolentino showed great joy for becoming, in his words, "in the heart of this family", which he approached in a "natural way".

Dominican Jubilee in Oslo

On 6 August, the Dominican Family celebrated not only our father St Dominic, but also the jubilee of one hundred years of the presence of the friars preachers here!



8 Dominican Family celebrated Jubilee in Oslo.

The term "family" is not used lightly in this case, but is essential, so great was the joy that brought the celebrating members together. Many were reluctant to leave – those who regularly frequent the convent, the OP laity, and the sisters, contemplative or apostolic, and the friars, all gathered together, coming from the four corners of the Vicariate of Dacia and from the Province of France, and some on foot – well, the youngsters! The Order, in its four branches, is very active in the Norwegian capital, and we can speak of a true "Dominican Church", grafted on Christ, who gives his new wine to the country of St Olaf.

We celebrated the Transfiguration of the Lord in the contemplative centre of the Lunden monastery, where the nuns had also prepared a royal table to start the Jubilee. We had the grace of lectures, given in English by all the loyal followers of the convent, in the magnificent church, with an excellent (and lyrical) historical retrospective on the life of the convent, the community and the friars over the last hundred years, and a presentation of the work of Br Marie-Alain Couturier (a student at the time) in his frescoes and stained glass in the conventual church and in the chapel of the neighbouring sisters. Not only rich in human terms, but an artistic treasure, then! Postponed several times because of the constraints imposed by a mysterious epidemic virus, the profession of two new laywomen also took place, really most appropriately, this weekend.

And on Sunday, the solemnity of our father St Dominic, Mgr Bernt Ivar Eidsvig, c.r.s.a., Bishop of Oslo, presided and preached at the great morning Mass. Joy was palpable, and Norwegians sing well, loudly, with all their hearts! The voices of the faithful were in perfect harmony with the splendid

Strasbourg organ in the church... Summing up, as we must, we ate and drank heartily (and not just coffee, despite the Norwegian custom)!

The several French friars present had the very positive (and even rather astonishing for our times) impression of understanding absolutely everything in Norwegian, and with good reason: Catholic Norwegians here speak French! – for the local Church was linked, by way of its history, with the country where Olaf was baptised (in Rouen)...

However, after all these festivities and these days of joy and sanctification, everyone had to say goodbye, after one last glass of wine, and one last meal, worthy of the Kingdom, at Sta Katarinahjemmet. Goodbye till we meet again! in the earnest hope of seeing new Dominican friars and sisters arrive here, enlarging the brilliant, smiling group of friars and sisters, preachers all, and perpetuate the generations of ardent Christians who keep coming, ripening (let us say it in this golden month of August in Scandinavia) a magnificent harvest for the Lord! ■

Br Thomas Carrique, OP

The Master of the Order visits the Province of St Augustine West Africa



After the erection of the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament, Ilorin, the Master of the Order, Brother Gerard Timoner, O.P., accompanied by his Socius for Africa, Brother Charles Ukwé, O.P., undertook a fraternal visit to the Province of St. Augustine, West Africa from June 28 – July 1. They visited St. Dominic Convent, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, a formation community, where they met with the

student brothers, the formation council, the conventual chapter, the provincial council and the Dominican laity. The studentate had students from six different IAOP entities. The Master was pleased with this collaboration among the IAOP entities. He encouraged them to remain faithful to their vocation.

They had an extensive visit of the Songhai Project at Port Novo. Brother Godfrey Nzamujo, O.P., took them on a tour of the Project. It was a massive Project that puts into practice the thoughts of Pope Francis expressed in *Laudato Sii*. He had the foresight to begin this project over 35 years ago. He maximizes production while conserving the environment. There is a harmonious ecological food chain where nothing is wasted. The waste of one organism on the food chain is the food for another. The yields are very impressive. The Project is home to crop farming, animal husbandry, the production of different kinds of edibles and beverages, soap, honey, cassava and yam flour, bread, biscuits, and so on. There is a section formachines and tools fabrication as well which are sold to farmers from some African countries.

BLESSING OF THE DOMINICAN COLLEGE, ABUJA

The Master and his Socius returned to Lagos on July 1. The next day, they flew to Abuja, the Federal Capital, for the blessing of the newly-built Dominican College. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Ayo-Maria Atoyebi, OP. It had many Dominicans and few diocesan priests in attendance.

In his homily, the Provincial of Nigeria and Ghana, Brother Richard Ogedengbe, O.P., said that the blessing of the Dominican College on the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle is a testimony that Divine Providence cannot be stopped by our human lack of confidence. "Our doubts and fears cannot change God's providence through the generosity of kind-hearted people who believe in the vision and mission of the Dominicans."

He reiterated that the objective is to ensure a holistic formation of the young by providing quality education to be made available to children of both the rich and the poor. To achieve this, the college has undertaken the option for the poor by including in its plan the establishment of indigent scholarship fund to take care of out-of-school children and indigent students. At the end of the Mass, the Master

of the Order performed the ceremony of blessing of the College.

During the reception, speeches were made by the benefactors and benefactresses who had contributed immensely to the building of the Dominican College. One of the sponsors of the buildings of the College offered to give a six-year scholarship to a couple of students.

For the vote of thanks, Brother Steve Ogbe, O.P., the President of the Society for Vocation Support, who coordinated the raising of money and the building of the College, expressed his appreciation towards all who made monetary contributions to the project, particularly, individuals who sponsored particular buildings, halls and the school gate. ■

Br. Charles Ukwe, O.P.



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