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Province of Hispania Elects its Prior Provincial



1 Brother Jesús Díaz Sariego, OP, Prior Provincial of the Province of Hispania

Brother Jesús Díaz Sariego, OP, was elected Prior Provincial of the Province of Hispania on the occasion of the Provincial Chapter on 2 July 2021 in Caleruega (Burgos). The Master of the Order, Brother Gerard Francisco Timoner III, OP, confirmed the election, which was accepted on the same day by Br. Jesús, who made the Profession of Faith accordingly.

Br. Jesús has held the office of Prior Provincial since 2016. On such occasion, since it was the birth of a new province, he was appointed by the then Master of the Order, Brother Bruno Cadoré, OP, after consultation with all the friars of the three provinces that were then being unified. This time, Br. Jesús has been elected by the capitulars representing all the members of the Province of Hispania.

Born in Riosa (Asturias) in 1962, Br. Jesús made his first profession in September 1983 and was ordained priest in Salamanca in 1989. He studied Philosophy and Educational Sciences. He obtained a bachelor's degree in Theology at the San Esteban Theological Institute in Salamanca and then a licentiate in Theology at the Faculty of Theology in Fribourg, where he also obtained his doctorate in Theology.

Brother Jesús has worked as a university lecturer at Escuela de Magisterio Fray Luis de León in Valladolid, at the San Esteban Faculty of Theology in Salamanca, at the San Vicente Ferrer Faculty of Theology in Valencia, and in the online courses given by DOMUNI and the Escuela de Magisterio.

He has also given theological training courses in Lima (Peru) and El Salvador.

He has been formator of postulants from 1996 to 2001 in Valladolid, Master of Students from 2002 to 2006 in Salamanca, provincial official responsible for studies in the Province of Spain from 2008 to 2013 and socius of the Provincial of the Province of Spain from 2006 to 2015. Since November 2017, he has been Vice President of the Spanish Conference of Religious (Conferencia Española de Religiosos, CONFER). We commend to your prayers our brother's service to the Order and to the Church. ■

New Prior Provincial of the Roman Province of St. Catherine of Siena



3 Prior Provincial during the Chapter of the Roman Province of St. Catherine of Siena

Brother Antonio Cocolicchio, OP, was elected Prior Provincial during the Chapter of the Roman Province of St. Catherine of Siena held at the Priory of St. Dominic in Fiesole, Italy. Following the confirmation by the Master of the Order of Preachers, Brother Gerard Timoner III, OP, on 5 July 2021, Br. Antonio accepted the election and made the Profession of Faith.

Born on 9 December 1969, Br. Antonio entered the Order in 1987 and made his profession in 1989. Having completed his institutional studies at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome, he was ordained a priest on 25 June 1994.

He held the following offices in the Province and in the Order: Assistant Parish Priest at Santa Maria del Rosario in Prati (Rome) from 1994 to 1996; Prior

of the convent of Santa Maria sopra Minerva from 2000 to 2009; Superior and Parish Priest at San Marco in Florence from 2010 to 2013; Provincial Promoter of the Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic; Provincial Promoter of the Priestly Fraternities and of the Dominican Family; Vicar of the Master of the Order for the Monastery of Sts. Dominic and Sixtus in Santa Maria del Rosario in Rome and the Monastery of the Most Holy Rosary in Marino (Rome); Spiritual Director of the St. John Paul II Public Association of the Faithful and the Roman group of the Caterinati; Vice President of the International Center for Catherinian Studies; Prior of the convent of Santa Maria sopra Minerva from 2018 until his election as Prior Provincial.

Assuming the role as Prior Provincial, Br. Antonio will accompany the province backed by his many years of pastoral experience and his fervent devotion to the Patroness of the Province, St. Catherine of Siena, whom he has preached constantly in his ministries. We commend to your prayers our brother's service to the Order and to the Church. ■

New Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Dominic in Italy



2 Brother Daniele Drago, OP, Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Dominic in Italy

Brother Daniele Drago, OP, was elected Prior Provincial during the Chapter of the Province of St. Dominic in Italy held at the Convent of St. Dominic in Bologna, Italy. Following the confirmation by the Master of the Order of Preachers, Brother Gerard Timoner III, OP, on 5 July 2021, Br. Daniele accepted it and made the Profession of Faith.

Born in Pisa on 24 April 1976, Br. Daniele is a doctor juris utriusque and a professor of canon law at the

Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome and at the Theological Faculty of Emilia Romagna. He is an ecclesiastical lawyer who is also a judge at the Interregional Ecclesiastical Tribunal Flaminio in Bologna.

His main work in the last eleven years has been in formation, serving first as Master of Students and subsequently as Master of Novices. His works include "Diritto di formarsi e formarsi nel diritto" published in 2019, and "I Canonici dello Spirito" in 2021. We commend to your prayers our brother's service to the Order and to the Church. ■

New Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Thomas Aquinas in Italy



4 Brother Francesco Maria Ricci, OP, Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Thomas in Italy

Brother Francesco Maria Ricci, OP, was elected Prior Provincial during the Chapter of the Province of St. Thomas in Italy held at the Convent of Madonna dell'Arco in Naples, Italy. Following the confirmation on 6 July 2021 by the Master of the Order of Preachers, Brother Gerard Timoner III, OP, Br. Francesco accepted the election and made the Profession of Faith.

Born in Cerignola in the province of Foggia on 17 September 1959, Br. Francesco entered the Order in 1983 and was ordained a priest on 24 June 1989. After his novitiate in Bologna, he continued his studies in Naples at the Pontifical Theological Faculty of Southern Italy, St. Thomas Section, and proceeded to obtain his Licentiate in Mariology at the Pontifical Theological Faculty (Marianum) in Rome, and then his Doctorate in Theology at the Angelicum.

In 1994, the Master of the Order, Brother Timothy Radcliffe, OP, appointed him Secretary of the General Postulation. His long service at the General Curia of the Order included other offices related to the Basilica of Santa Sabina, for which he worked on various restoration and promotion projects.

At the end of his mandate in 2015, he returned to the Province and was assigned to the Convent of San Domenico Maggiore in Naples, where he later on served as Prior. Even then he continued his ministry as Postulator of some causes at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. He was likewise involved in different preaching ministries as well in animating various congregations of religious women.

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

Liturgical Commission Launches "liturgia.op.org"



A new website entirely dedicated to Dominican liturgy has been launched by the Liturgical Commission of the Order (Commissio Liturgicæ Internationalis Ordinis Prædicatorum, CLIOP). On these pages one may find useful documents related to the liturgy of the Order of Preachers, including the most recent revision of the General Calendar of the Order (2019), the calendars of individual provinces that have already finished the approval process, as well as official liturgical books and liturgical texts as renewed in the light of the Second Vatican Council. It is practically a repository on the web that collects all the officially approved documents from recent years.

Appointed in November 2020, the Liturgical Commission is currently engaged in several large

projects on which it has been working for the last few years and now intends to bring to a successful conclusion. Among these are the translation into English of the Proper of the Order of Preachers for the Roman Missal and the revision of provincial calendars seeking recognition by the Holy See.

Since the commission's appointment, there also exists a Sub-Commission on Sacred Music to work on musical aspects of the liturgy. The website will likewise feature the sub-commission's activities and projects, among which are some compositions in the Dominican tradition.

Part of the commission's plans for future development of the site is the addition of texts from the tradition of the Preachers, taking into account the different forms of Dominican life. The website would eventually welcome contributions of liturgical texts as well as information about liturgical projects from the provinces of the Order and from all branches of the Dominican Family.

Through this website, the commission hopes to foster unity and harmony of Dominican liturgical life across the whole Order. ■

Fr. Dominik Jurczak OP

New Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Joseph the Worker



5 Brother Modestus Ngwu, OP

Brother Modestus Ngwu, OP, was elected Prior Provincial during the Chapter of the Province of St. Joseph the Worker, Nigeria and Ghana, held at the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas in Ibadan, Nigeria. Following the confirmation by the Master of the Order of Preachers, Brother Gerard Timoner III, OP, on 27 July 2021, Br. Modestus accepted the election and made the Profession of Faith.

Born on 18 July 1970 to Mr. Callistus Ngwu and Mrs. Roseline Ngwu, Br. Modestus entered the

Order in 1994, and made his first religious profession in 1995. He completed his institutional studies at the Dominican Institute of Philosophy and Theology in Ibadan and was ordained to the priesthood on 11 September 2004.

He held the following offices in the Province and in the Church: Associate Pastor of St. Paul Parish in Oyigbo, Nigeria, from 2004 to 2009; Parochial Vicar of St. Augustine Parish in Humboldt, Canada, from 2009 to 2010; Parish Administrator of Sacred Heart Parish in Watson, Canada, from 2010 to 2013; Pastor of St. Mary Parish in Fox Valley, from 2013 to 2016, and of Bishop Murray High School in Saskatoon, from 2013 to 2015; Chaplain of Holy Cross High School in Saskatoon, from 2013 to 2015; Chaplain of Bethlehem Catholic High School in Saskatoon, from 2015 to 2016, and of the Regional Psychiatric Center in Saskatoon, from 2014 to 2016; Chaplain Residency, Clinical Pastoral Education, Hershey Medical Center, PA, USA, from 2017 to 2018; and Supervisory Chaplain for the Catholic Services at the Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, from 2016 until his election as Prior Provincial.

Brother Modestus loves to contemplate the beauty of God in nature. He believes that nature is constantly revealing a mystery beyond itself. His published work, "The Splendor of the Prairies", received some praises in Saskatoon, Canada. Presently in the diocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, he loves and enjoys his ministry at the hospital as a chaplain. Because of his encounters with patients, he sees Jesus in the life of every patient admitted to the hospital. He shares their fears, anxieties, pains, and brokenness. These experiences gave birth to his second book, "Grace in Horror", which has five-star reviews on Amazon. This book is a recapitulation of his experiences – standing at the bedside of so many patients, listening to them and their family members. Though the experience of suffering is not pleasant, Br. Modestus finds the beauty and the indestructibility of God's love and Presence in the life of every human being in that sacred time of vulnerability.

Brother Modestus will be guided in his service as Provincial by his love for the brotherhood, his friendliness, his simplicity and spontaneity in service, and his compassion for the weak and vulnerable. Trusting in God's mercy and strength, we recommend to your prayers our brother

Modestus' service to the Order and to the Church. ■

Dominican Cooperator Brothers: Called to Serve as Missionaries and Disciples



6 Brother Martin de Porres

In his letter to the Master of the Order, “Praedicator Gratiae Pope Francis writes: “In our own age, characterized by epochal changes and new challenges to the Church’s evangelizing mission, Dominic can thus serve as an inspiration to all the baptized, who are called, as missionary disciples: to reach every “periphery” of our world with the light of the Gospel and the merciful love of Christ; to cooperate with others to overcome unjust economic and political structures; and to give birth to a new world where all of us are brothers and sisters where there is room for all those whom our societies discard.” He calls all Dominicans to be in the forefront of a renewed proclamation of the Gospel, one that can speak to the hearts of the men and women of our time and awaken in them a thirst for the coming of Christ’s kingdom of holiness and peace.

Brother Gerard Francisco Timoner III, OP, Master of our Order, in elaborating on Pope Francis’ call to our Order states “Speaking either with God or about God, St. Dominic embodied a synergy of contemplation and action and exemplified a disciple-missionary, called to follow and sent to preach the way of the Gospel. It is worth pondering that the Holy Father uses the term missionary-disciple instead. Perhaps, Pope Francis is inviting us to realize that the God who sends us in mission is the same God who is present everywhere and constantly invites us to follow Him as disciples.”

The call of Pope Francis and the Master of our Order, to all Dominicans to serve as missionary-disciples, is a prophetic moment especially as the Permanent Commission for the Vocation of the Dominican Cooperator Brother continues the work entrusted to it by the 2019 General Chapter of Bien Hoa (cf. ACTA 189-198). This act of the 2019 General Chapter was an historic event but, more importantly, it was a defining moment that re-affirmed the essential presence of the vocation and ministry of cooperator brothers in carrying out the mission and charism of our Order in our contemporary world.

The ministries of cooperator brothers in the life our Order have existed since its very foundation. The historical collection of the richness, diversity, and challenges of this ministry in responding to the needs of the Church, including those martyred for the faith, during these eight hundred years, is extensive. Inspired by Pope Francis’ call and that of the Master of our Order to renew our mission and charism as missionaries and disciples-preachers of grace, we have been charged to set forth a radical new vision of the ministry of evangelization, discipleship and formulate new initiatives for the formation and ministry of cooperator brothers in response the urgent needs of our world today and for the future, and that excite young join our Order as cooperator brothers – missionaries and disciples – preachers of grace.

Collaborating with the work of the Permanent Commission is the appointment of a Theological Commission (cf. 2019 General Chapter-Bien Hoa, ACTA 199) whose charge it is “to undertake theological research on the vocation of the cooperator brother. The publication of this research will help to deepen our understanding of the specificity of the cooperator brother vocation in the Order and in the Church.

The Permanent Commission has met several times in order to respond to its charge. It is in the process of identifying several strategic initiatives that will invite the input of all cooperator brothers of our Order, as well as all members of the Dominican Family, to participate in creating and implementing a new vision in response to the needs of the Church and a world in need of healing, hope and an enduring peace. The Commission is in its early stages of creating a long-range plan. We invite all members of the Dominican Family to help in

formulating this plan by contacting any member of the Permanent Commission listed below.

In the words of Pope Francis “may the Order of Preachers, now as then, be in the forefront of a renewed proclamation of the Gospel, one that can speak to the hearts of men and women of our time and awaken in them a thirst for the coming of Christ’s kingdom of holiness, justice and peace.”

As we move forward in creating a renewed vision and ministry for Dominican cooperator brothers in our world, we are reminded of the invitation of Jesus “let us cross to the other side” (Mk: 4:35), and follow Him and his disciples as they travelled deep into pagan lands to announce the message of the kingdom, to be unafraid to cross all frontiers even to the ends of the earth, and to welcome to our common home the lost, the last, the least, the unloved, the unwanted, victims of bondage and human trafficking, and those forced to live on the periphery of human life in deafening anonymity. Amen

Brothers of the Permanent Commission:

- Daniel-Mario Chukwuma Ibezim, OP
- Herman Johnson OP
- Mark Padrez, OP (Secretary)
- Xavier Plassat, OP
- Ignatius Perkins, OP, Chair
- Joseph mai van Tuyen ■

ICLDF Meets APCLDF



7 ICLDF Meets APCLDF

On May 16, 2021 (Sunday), the International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities (ICLDF) held a fraternal meeting with the Asia-Pacific Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities (APCLDF).

The Regional meetings initiated by the ICLDF are meant to strengthen fraternal collaboration in the preaching mission, and to foster closer relations and graced inspiration shared with one another.

The Asia-Pacific Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities or APCLDF

spearheads the Lay Dominicans in the Asia-Pacific Region in effectively carrying out the preaching mission in collaboration with the Dominican Family, amidst challenges in the region, in particular, and across world’s regions in general.

The Asia-Pacific Region covers 34 countries in Southeast Asia, East Asia, South Asia and Pacific and Solomon Islands. At present, there are around 118,000 Lay Dominicans in 1.489 fraternities in Australia, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Macau, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Vietnam.

The agenda items covered the self-introduction of both Council Members who expressed respective greetings; the highlights of a long line of activities undertaken by the APCLDF read out by Ms. Tabayoyong, enhanced with corresponding photos of activities shown by Belén L. Tangco; the possibility of regional assemblies to be held onsite during better condition in health environment, with a written permission from the Master of the Order; Regional Statutes as revised and approved by the APCLDF in plenary session, for presentation to the Master, through the General Promoter.

For the ICLDF, the following participated: Rev. Fr. Juan Ubaldo López Salamanca, General Promoter; Mr. Gabriel Silva (Europe- ECLDF), Coordinator; Ms. Christine Husson (USA-Canada- DLIPC), Treasurer; Ms. Susana Brittos (Latin America & the Caribbean-COFALC), Pointperson for Justice & Peace; Mr. Epiphane Yelome (Africa-ACLDF) Councillor; and Ms. Belén Lorezca-Tangco (Asia-Pacific- APCLDF), Secretary. The Socius to the Master for Asia-Pacific, Rev. Fr. Raj Mannes Amirtha, attended as a guest.

For the APCLDF, the following participated: Ms. Marian Navarro Yap (Hong Kong- Vice Coordinator & Zonal Coordinator for East Asia); Mr. Theophilus Atmadi (Indonesia- Coordinator for Justice & Peace); represented by Mr. Robertus Belarminus Adi Ismawan, President of St. Martin de Porres Lay Dominican Fraternity, Jogjakarta, Indonesia; Ms.

Estrella Jona B. Tabayoyong (Philippines-Secretary); Ms. June Ross (Australia- Zonal Coordinator for Australia, Solomon Islands & Papua New Guinea); Mr. Nery Francis Estoquia (Philippines- Zonal Coordinator for Southeast Asia); and Ms. Tinna Christanty, OP (Indonesia-Treasurer); and, Dr. Belén Lorezca-Tangco (Coordinator-President). Thanks to Mr. Vicente Libo-on for the technical assistance during the meeting. ■

by Ms. Estrella Jona B. Tabayoyong
Secretary APCLDF

Manila, June 2021

The Master of the Order erects a New Monastery of the Order in Nigeria



8 The Dominican Nuns with the Master of the Order, Brother Gerard Francisco Timoner, III, OP, the Provincial of the Province of St. Joseph the Worker, Nigeria and Ghana, Brother Richard Ogedengbe, OP, the Master and the Socius for Africa, fr. Charles Ukwe

On June 26, 2021, the Master of the Order, Brother Gerard Francisco Timoner, III, OP, erected and integrated the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament, Ilorin, as a monastery of the Order. He arrived Nigeria on June 24. Early the next day, the Provincial of the Province of St. Joseph the Worker, Nigeria and Ghana, Brother Richard Ogedengbe, OP, the Master and the Socius for Africa, Fr. Charles Ukwe, OP, flew into Ilorin and were welcomed to the monastery by the sisters with songs, drums and dancing. They were ushered into the dining room for breakfast. After breakfast, Sr. MaryAnn took their guests round to see the monastery and their projects which includes crop farming such as, plantains, bananas, yams,

cassava, oranges and mangoes, and a small palm plantation; and animal husbandry which includes, piggery, poultry, fishery, heliculture (snail farming) and beekeeping. Other projects are altar bread production, bakery and sewing, (they made the beautiful vestments used for the occasion which was a take-away gift to the priests and bishops).

The monastery wore a new look with beautiful decorations mostly in Dominican colors of black and white, the handwork of the Dominican sisters from Lagos and Ibadan. They had arrived two days earlier to help to set up things. From outside, one could see some signs of festivity and once inside the monastery, one felt an atmosphere of great expectation. The courtyard reserved for the celebration of the Mass received some special touch of decoration with ribbons, wreaths and garlands, particularly, the altar and the sanctuary, canopies and seats were setup. Everything was prepared so that the people of God could gather the next day to witness the reading of the decree of erection of the monastery and the religious profession of the sisters. The day long expected for 26 years had finally come. Everyone was elated and joyful.

In the early hours of the morning of June 26, the heavens opened up and the rains came down so hard unrelentingly. People thought it was going to mar the celebration. But they were showers of blessing from the Lord. About the time of the long procession of the altar servers, the sisters who were going to make their profession, priests and bishops, to the place of Mass, the rain stopped for the procession to take place. Then, it drizzled during the homily. By the end of the Mass which lasted four hours, fifteen minutes, the sun had come up and the ground was dry which afforded the newly professed sisters and their guests the opportunity to take pictures in a dry environment.

The Mass had four bishops in attendance, Archbishop Gabriel Abegurin, the Archbishop of Ibadan, who was the Chief Celebrant; Bishop Paul Olawoore, Bishop of Ilorin; Bishop Ayo-Maria Atoyebi, OP, the emeritus bishop of Ilorin; and Bishop John Oyejola of Oshogbo diocese. There were about 15 Dominican and 10 diocesan priests, many Dominican sisters, religious men and women from different religious institutes within the diocese of Ilorin. Benefactors and benefactresses of the monastery including some well-wishers were on

hand to experience the joy of the day. Some representatives of the Lay Dominican Fraternities from across the country were in attendance. The student brothers' choir from St. Thomas Aquinas Priory, Ibadan, sang beautifully at the Mass. The large presence of the different branches of the Dominican family in Nigeria clearly showed that this was really a celebration of the family.

The decree of erection of the monastery was read at the beginning of the Mass. Eleven sisters made their solemn profession of vows and four made simple vows. During Vespers, one postulant was admitted to the novitiate. In his homily, the Master of the Order thanked God for his wonderful blessings, for the canonical erection of the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament in Ilorin. He remarked that the sisters had become a breath of fresh air as a monastery was being erected in Africa when the Order had asked the Holy See for the suppression of 13 monasteries in Europe in the past four years for lack of vocation. He told them that they had become formerly the youngest nuns in the Order by their profession.

The Master underscored the fact that the contemplative nuns evangelize by their practice of the perfection of charity. Embracing religious life does not make one perfect, but may help one to perfect one's charity. The evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty and obedience are not ends but means to become perfect in love. They have the power to evangelize in the witness of their complete and varied manifestations. These counsels help one in the imitation of Christ, the one who is revealed as love. Obedience enables us to listen within the context of the community.

Everything about our religious consecration, vocation, ministry, prayer and community are brought together by God's will. Obedience is a principle of unity that resides in the Sacrament of unity which is the Eucharist. We remain the symbols of unity in the Church, with the Pope, the Bishop of Rome, and the bishop of our diocese, symbols of our unity. Obedience helps us to listen to one another because truth is available in the context of the faith community. The Master explained that, "the evangelical counsel of chastity is to perfect our love for one another since the counsels are ordered to the perfection of charity, the first sin against chastity is the failure to love. Chastity expresses the importance of our body in the mystery of our faith

with hope in the resurrection of our body. Our body is made holy in the Incarnation and Resurrection of Jesus. As preachers of the Word-Made-Flesh, we proclaim the holiness of our bodily existence." He stated that evangelical poverty is anchored on the first community of believers who shared their goods so that no one was in need.

The Master affirmed that, "evangelical poverty is a Christian solution to economic and spiritual poverty. Like the apostolic community, sharing of goods become a complete sign of the Kingdom of God." He admonished the nuns that by living the Dominican monastic life faithfully and joyfully, "you participate in the Church's work of evangelization for the evangelical counsels have the power to evangelize not just you but the people who come to know you." Moreover, by their special apostolate of Eucharistic adoration, praying for the needs of the Church and the world, they highlight the connection between the vows and the Eucharist. The Master went on to describe the monastery "as a factory of prayer" where the nuns constantly intercede for the Church and the world, and for individuals who approach them to pray for their needs.

The sisters answered positively to the interrogation about readiness to live out their religious consecration before the Lord. After the litany of the Saints was sung, the Master of the Order received their vows. He also gave them their rings, a sign of their betrothal to the Lord.

The Mass ended at 2.15pm. Even though the ceremony lasted for four hours, fifteen minutes, it was so lively that no one was in a hurry to leave. In all, it was a beautiful, joyful and spirit-filled celebration. After the liturgical celebration, everyone had enough to eat and drink. ■

Br. Charles UKWE, OP

Is Dominic still relevant today?

Jubilee celebration for the Province of Malta



The Maltese Dominicans of St. Pius V Province officially celebrated the Dominican Jubilee on the 24th May, solemn memorial of the Translation of Our Father St. Dominic. Archbishop Charles J. Scicluna presided over the Mass along with the friars and members of the Dominican Family. This Eucharistic celebration was held at the Priory dedicated to our Lady of the Grotto which is also the House of Formation and the Provincial Curia.

Archbishop Scicluna said that St. Paul's phrase, "For this I was appointed preacher and apostle, teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth", (1 Tm 2:7) sums up Dominic's charism and vocation. This confirmed identity led him to locate the sanctity and the dignity of the human person at the centre of preaching when engaging the Cathar and Albigensian heresies which looked down upon the human body and upon human relationships, marriage even. Dominic's preaching then could be seen as a celebration of God's good creation, at the core of which is the image of the Creator uniquely imprinted on every human individual redeemed by God's love in Christ.

The title given to Dominic – Praedicator Gratiae – is intimately connected to the way God has revealed his love for us all, namely, through his mercy which is granted as pure gift. That the Order has chosen conviviality and fraternity around Dominic's table as the principal theme, reminds us all that just as eating is a vitally basic human activity, so should our gratitude for God's unfailing care be expressed in tangible love, compassion and fellowship to all.

Finally, the Archbishop asked, is Dominic still relevant today? This is not a question even to be asked since the need to preach and evangelise is

as urgent as ever. The demand for our preaching corresponds to the perpetual human thirst for the compassion and grace-filled truth offered by the Lord. Let us pray that Dominican communities may radiate the marvellous aroma that emerged from Dominic's tomb on that unforgettable Translation and which beckons our faith in the Paschal mystery of Christ, the core message of our preaching today. ■



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