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New Provincial of the Province of St. Pius V in Malta



Brother Vincent Mary Micallef was elected Prior Provincial of the Maltese Province of St. Pius V. The Master of the Order confirmed the election and Br. Vincent accepted it on the same day, 15 June 2021.

Brother Vincent was born in Valletta, Malta, on 2 March 1950. The

son of Victor and Mary Micallef, he is the fourth of six children. He entered the Order of Preachers on 8 September 1967, took his first vows on 22 September 1968, and made his solemn profession in 1971. He was ordained a priest on 20 July 1974.

Upon entering the Order, he continued his studies at the Philosophical and Theological College of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Rabat, Malta. In 1978 he was sent as a missionary to the Maltese Dominican community in Brazil, where he remained for 30 years. In Brazil, he served as parish priest in various parishes, as well as master of postulants, novices and student brothers. He was also Vicar of the Provincial for the Maltese missionaries in Brazil. He was elected provincial of the Province of Bartolomeu de Las Casas in Brazil from 2006 to 2009. He also pursued further studies at the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo, where he obtained a License degree in Philosophy and a Master's degree in Religious Sciences.

In 2010 he returned to Malta where, at the 2013 Provincial Chapter, he was appointed Vicar of the Provincial and Parish Priest of Our Lady of Fatima in Gwardamangia, where he also served as Prior.

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

New Prior Provincial of the Province of St. James of Mexico



1 Brother Luis Javier Rubio, OP

On 4 June 2021, the capitular friars of the Provincial Chapter of the Province of St. James of Mexico elected Brother Luis Javier Rubio Guerrero, OP as their Prior Provincial. The Master of the Order, Brother Gerard Francisco Timoner III, OP confirmed his election, and Br. Luis Javier accepted it and made the Profession of Faith.

Br. Luis Javier was born in the city of San Luis Potosí in Mexico on 21 September 1967, the son of Francisco Javier Rubio López and María Martha Guerrero. He professed his first vows in 1991 and was ordained priest in 1999. He has a degree in business administration from the Autonomous University of San Luis, Potosi, and a Master's degree in Latin American Realities with the theme of "Globalization" from the Pedro de Córdoba Institute. He has a Licentiate in Moral Theology from the Pontifical University of Mexico. In his Province, he has worked as superior, formator, and regent of studies.

Prior to his election, Br. Luis Javier was serving as Socius of the Master of the Order for Latin America since 1 April 2016 at the Convent of Santa Sabina in Rome, Italy.

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

New Rector of the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum)

THE PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS ANNOUNCES

THEOLOGY FOR A MISSIONARY CHURCH: FR. THOMAS JOSEPH WHITE IS THE NEW RECTOR OF THE ANGELICUM



ROME – The Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome has named a new Rector Magnificus, fr. Thomas Joseph White, OP

The Congregation for Catholic Education has given approval for the appointment by fr. Gerard Timoner OP, Master of the Order of Preachers, of fr. Thomas Joseph White, OP as Rector Magnificus of the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome. Fr. Thomas Joseph, a member of the Dominican Province of St. Joseph (USA), is currently the director of the Angelicum's Thomistic Institute and professor of theology.

Fr. Thomas Joseph notes that "the Angelicum is a university especially dedicated to the universal mission of the Church. Building on the Dominican tradition of harmony between faith and natural reason, the university seeks to cultivate a deeper understanding of Christianity, and the doctrinal life of the Church, in ongoing conversation with traditions of philosophy, law, and social doctrine. St. Thomas Aquinas is our touchstone in this effort."

The university currently has approximately 1,000 students from nearly 100 countries, with representation of seminarians, priests, religious and lay students alike. As fr. White notes, "The Angelicum is a school of future missionaries, where students can study theology so as to be in the service of a missionary Church. Growth in knowledge of the mystery of Christ is meant to lead to growth in love, and the two together form an integral witness to the Catholic faith. This aim resonates deeply with what Pope Francis has wrote recently in a letter addressed to the Dominican Order on the occasion of the 800 year anniversary

of St. Dominic's death, 'In our own age, characterized by epochal changes and new challenges to the Church's evangelizing mission, Dominic can...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.'"

The new rector succeeds fr. Michał Paluch OP, whose vital initiatives helped renovate or found anew the university's Institute for Ecumenical Studies, the St. John Paul II Institute of Culture, and the Thomistic Institute, while also creating new scholarship lines, recruiting new professors, and renovating infrastructure of the university.

Fr. Thomas Joseph was born in 1971 in Atlanta, Georgia (USA). He graduated from Brown University with a B.A. in religious studies (1993) and completed his M.Phil, and D.Phil. at the University of Oxford in theology (2003). In 2003 he entered the Dominican Order's Province of St. Joseph, where he was ordained to the priesthood in 2008 in Washington, D.C. He completed an S.T.L. at the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception at the Dominican House of Studies, where he also served as a professor of theology for 10 years. He was the founding director of the Thomistic Institute in Washington D.C, an institute for intellectual evangelization on secular university campuses, now present on over 60 campuses across the US and Europe.

Since 2018, fr. Thomas Joseph was charged by the Master of the Dominican Order to teach theology at the Angelicum and to reorganize the Angelicum's Thomistic Institute in order to help promote the study of the Thomistic tradition at the heart of the Church. This new institute fosters theological research and engagement with other philosophical and theological traditions, as well as contemporary sciences.

Fr. Thomas Joseph has been a member of the Pontifical Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas since 2011. He is the co-editor of the theology journal *Nova et Vetera* (English edition), and a Distinguished Scholar of the McDonald Agape Foundation. He's the author of several books, including *Wisdom in the Face of Modernity: A Study in Thomistic Natural Theology* (2011); *The Incarnate Lord: A Thomistic Study in Christology*

(2015); *Exodus* (2016); *The Light of Christ: An Introduction to Catholicism* (2017), and *The Trinity: On the Nature and Mystery of the One God* (forthcoming in 2022).

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PHOTOS: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmQz2dwf>

MEDIA KIT (ENG) <https://angelicum.it/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ENG-Media-Kit-2021-2022-ANGELICUM.pdf> ■

Appointment of the Members of the Theological Commission on the Vocation of the Cooperator Brother in the Order and in the Church

The Master of the Order has appointed Members of the Commission that is requested by the last General Chapter (ACG 2019 Biên Hòa, 199):

- fr. Vivian Boland (Ireland)
- fr. Andrew Hofer (St Joseph USA)
- fr. Felicísimo Martínez (Rosary Province)
- fr. Anthony Akinwale (Nigeria)
- fr. Francis Nguyen Van Nhut (Vietnam)
- fr. Franklin Buitrago Rojas (Colombia)
- sr. Hedvig Deák (Hungary)
- Erik Borgman (Netherlands)
- fr. Joseph Trout (St. Albert USA).

The commission will focus its theological reflection on the specific vocation of the branches of the Dominican Family within the broader context of the Church which is an ordered communion. This shift in focus will avoid repetition of significant studies on cooperator-brothers undertaken by previous commissions. More importantly, it will look at how the richness of the Dominican vocation, exemplified in distinct ways by the different branches of the Family, serve the Church and the world.

Br. Vivian Boland shall serve as chair of the commission. Br. Mark Padrez, Vicar of the Master and Socius for Fraternal Life and Formation shall serve as liaison between the Theological Commission and the Permanent Commission for the Cooperator Brothers. ■

Brother Aldino Amato, OP: A Visionary with a Mission



Brother Amato Aldino, OP was born on 22 February 1931 in Molfetta, Bari, Italy. He was ordained on 29 June 1957. At his ordination, he had made a promise to God to become a missionary.

He was very much impressed by the Italian missionaries to Pakistan. Right after his ordination, he wanted to serve as a missionary, but he was sent to assist at the Apostolic School in Arezzo, Italy. After five years, on 8 February 1962, he was sent as a missionary to Pakistan. He made it his priority to learn the local languages so that he would understand and help the people. "Actions speak louder than words" was one of his principles. He never distinguished between Christians and Muslims; all were equal to him. He was an ambassador of peace and a beacon of light for the Muslims and Christians.

From the very beginning, he was regular with his spiritual life, pastoral ministry, caring for the poor, suffering, sick, hungry, homeless, and, in particular, the blind. He was faithful in carrying on with his social apostolate of overall development of the people as best as possible in the given situation. More than a devoted priest and a sincere, disciplined, and committed leader, he was a responsible and hardworking administrator as well as a kind-hearted man. In his early years, he used to attend the annual retreats, assemblies and chapter meetings of his communities. He transformed his difficult and different vision into his mission.

Br. Amato rendered his missionary services in Pakistan for 59 years and played a vital role in the diocese of Faisalabad. He provided pastoral,

educational, technical and health assistance in many parishes. He assisted at Khuspur Parish from 1962-1967 then served as a Parish Priest in the same parish from 1967-1972; he sent 19 students to Italy to complete their studies in medicine. He was a Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Parish Sahiwal from 1972-1980, served at Holy Rosary Parish Warispura, Faisalabad from 1980-1982, Chichawatini Parish in 1983 for six months, then Okara City Parish from 1983-1988 and at Rehmpur, Our Lady of Mercy Parish from 1988-2021.

Wherever he was assigned, he would assist in building chapels in the villages and, if needed, churches, or assist in renovating the existing ones. He assisted in building three churches and more than 15 chapels in remote villages. He spent quality time in faith formation, he himself would teach catechism to children, youth and adults so that they would have a strong foundation in the Catholic faith. Thus, his priority was faith formation. To continue this mission of faith formation he was instrumental in recruiting many young men to the Dominican Order and also men and women to other congregations.

In 1972, he was transferred to Sahiwal Parish. Seeing the poor condition of the Catholics, he was instrumental in building 60 houses in one place which is now called Amato Colony. He had also helped families build houses in many other places. The families whose houses he had helped build are ever grateful to him.

His biggest contribution was towards his ministry among the blind. In one of his visits to Italy, he met Mr. Luigi Vieri, a blind professor who encouraged him to start schools for the blind in Pakistan, assuring him of assistance, guidance and financial support. With this, Aldino started the extraordinary mission for blind students. He was instrumental in having boarding houses with educational facilities for the blind, some of which were attached to parishes while others independent of parishes. With his help and guidance, many of them were able to complete their higher studies. To care for the blind had truly been his unique and lifetime achievement.

In Okara, he dedicated more time in the field of education and formation of children and the youth. He was instrumental in founding three schools, technical institutes, tailoring institutes and a college for women. To sustain the continued education of the students he also labored to have boarding schools and hostels for boys and girls. These residential schools eventually helped the students complete their higher studies.

At Rehmpur Parish, Chak 6/4.L, he took a keen interest in farming and cultivation. He bought tractors and trolleys and helped provide a tube well for the purpose of farming. God had blessed him abundantly to use the produce for the benefit of the boarding children and also of needy families. A big share of the produce was also shared with the diocese for their projects.

Initially, in different places, he used to help the sick and the needy. But in the year 2002, with the unexpected grant from well-wishers from Rome and collaboration from his priest friend from Molfetta he was able to build in Okara a hospital, which the benefactors suggested to be called "Rosary Christian Hospital". In order to meet the expenses of the hospital, the schools, hostels and a college for women, he founded Maria & Michele Modugno Foundation by depositing a huge amount of money as an endowment fund. The trust of this huge amount helps even other institutions to cover the ordinary expenses.

Within the hospital premises at Rehmpur, Okara, he had a new parish house and a beautiful chapel. To help as many people as possible, he secured the purchase of ambulances and also made it possible to have a branch of MCB Bank at the hospital premises. Now consisting of a TB Ward, Eye Department, OPD and Gynecology division, the hospital is being administered with the help of the Franciscan Tertiary Sisters of Lahore. On 1 May 2021, Br. Aldino departed to the heavenly father and is buried in the Hospital Chapel at Chak 6/4-L Rehmpur, Okara. May his soul rest in Peace. ■

Brother James Samuel, OP

Interview with the New Prior Provincial of Central America

An interview with Brother Ricardo Guardado, the new Prior Provincial of Central America, conducted



2 Br Ricardo Guardado

by Brother Luis Javier Rubio, OP, Socius of the Master of the Order for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Ricardo, please tell us some important facts about your childhood and adolescence.

I was born in San Francisco, La Virtud, Lempira, Honduras, in 1978. My father's name is Cándido Guardado and my mother's name is María Lucinda Flores. We were nine siblings in total, eight boys and one girl. My origin is purely peasant; for this reason, I have always felt more comfortable in the countryside than in the city. Corn tortillas and beans have been the basis of my daily diet. I am a mountain man, that is why I always renew the promise of 'never giving up my roots', since my identity began to be forged there. This is how I feel better, fulfilled, and happy. With my father I learned to work the land, and with my mother I learned the tenderness of dealing with other people; without them, I would never have made it this far. My teenage years passed like a sigh, because life required me from very early on to acquire the tools to survive far from home and family, when I finished elementary school I had to go to the city for my secondary education.

How did you meet the Dominicans?

In 1991, when two friars, driven by the spirit of the 'Holy Mission', came to the village where my family lives. There they met my dad, who has been a minister of the Word of God for more than forty years. Those friars were on mission for a week and they spoke to the people in a unique way and made an impact with their way of preaching the Word of

God. That was my first contact with the members of this Order, which, over the years, I have learned to love.

Tell us about some of your experiences as a Dominican friar.

One of the greatest experiences I have had in the Order of Preachers has been to trust in human beings; I have learned that it is possible to find goodness and beauty in every person. Therefore, I have discovered that all of us, men and women, are a project under daily construction, in which we can collaborate mutually to reach the highest of our dreams and desires—that is to say, to live in God without leaving him.

What did you learn from your experience abroad?

I learned about the universality of the Order of Preachers and its plurality that does not take away its unity. The experiences abroad have helped me to discover that “universal fraternity,” no matter how utopian it may seem, is always achievable. For this reason, I believe and maintain that we, Dominican friars, are required to go out of ourselves, in order not to waste our time and life looking at ourselves. Our Order was not born for self-reference, but to live in a constant Pentecost, “speaking with God and of God”.

What are your goals now that you have been elected Provincial?

To listen and accompany the friars of the Province, to learn obedience to God every day, and to encourage my brothers in the different communities in Central America to build bridges through assertive and proactive communication.

To invite and encourage the brothers to go out of themselves and to always go to the place where life reveals fragility and hope, to collaborate in the construction of the kingdom of God, healing the wounds of those who are hurt and discarded every day in our society.

Do you have a closing message for us?

I urge the members of the Dominican Family in Central America and all those with whom we relate every day, to keep hope in God and in humanity in

these times of pandemic. Let us love God by healing the wounds we have inflicted on our ‘common home’. Let us strive and seek, most urgently, that the ministry of preaching will be connected with people’s lives, and that we will always communicate God’s good news to our world.

In this Jubilee Year of Our Father St. Dominic, let us prepare the table of the Word and of the Bread, and let us go out to look for people to eat it. This way we will not remain with the table set and the food spoiling, but allow it to nourish the lives of those who are agonizing on the wayside.

Fraternal greetings. ■

Webinar: New approaches to juvenile justice in the African context



3 Organized by Dominicans for Justice and Peace, the Justice, Peace and Environmental Dominican Commission in Ivory Coast and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

May 21st, 2021

In many African countries, juvenile justice systems still lack a restorative approach despite improvements in legislations. Boys and girls are found incarcerated without alternatives because they are suspected or accused of committing an offence. They continue to be criminalized at alarming rates and incarcerated in deplorable prison conditions. Through this webinar, the organizers hoped to bring new ideas to the table for more sustainable, restorative, and positive approaches to juvenile justice systems.

Dominicans for Justice and Peace conducted a monitoring and advocacy project on juvenile justice in Ivory Coast at the beginning of 2021. A series of

fact-finding missions were carried out by the Justice, Peace and Environmental Dominican Commission in Abidjan in juvenile protection services and detention centres. Ms Evelyne Gabala, Coordinator of the project in Abidjan, shared key observations with the objective to promote and defend the rights of juvenile offenders, urging alternative solutions to incarceration.

Mr Richard Robinson, Senior Corrections Advisor from the U.S. Department of State, shared some positive impacts of restorative justice practices, which seek to repair mental, physical, and emotional troubles caused by a criminal act as well as to provide for the victim's continued safety within their community. He challenged the audience to imagine the impacts of alternatives to incarceration coupled with a restorative focus.

Finally, Mr Jeffery Bawa, Programme Officer of the Regional Section for Africa and the Middle East at the UNODC, informed that the UNODC hoped to upscale its work in Africa in the next 10 years. He stated that making juvenile justice more effective and accountable was an important goal and stronger partnerships with civil society organizations was fundamental. He also highlighted the key role of women as agents of change, and the fact that children and youth should be empowered into change. He invited civil society to work along with the UNODC and local and international partners, focusing on protecting children and preventing drug, terrorism, and criminalization.

Dominicans for Justice and Peace thanks the panellists for their valuable inputs.

Watch the webinar here:

<https://un.op.org/en/node/3477> ■



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