Dominican Month for Peace 2019
1º Dec 2019 - 1º Jan 2020

“Peace in our homes, our families, our schools and communities. Peace in all those places where war never seems to end. Peace for those faces which have known nothing but pain.”
(Pope Francis)

Solidarity with the Dominican Family in India

Visit our new website: https://idi.op.org

Dominican Sisters of the Immaculate Conception celebrate 150 years of foundation

In November we remember our deceased brothers and sisters
Election of the new Socius of the Master of the Order for Asia and the Pacific


Fr. Raj Mannes was born on 21 March 1953, made profession in the Order of Preachers on 20 June 1974 and was ordained a priest on 26 October 1980.

As a new socius, fr. Raj Mannes AMIRTHA O.P. tells us: "Being the socius of the Master of the Order for Asia and the Pacific is a great opportunity to serve the Order and reach as many brothers as possible with the help of God and under the guidance of Saint Dominic".

He has worked as a formator in all stages of formation; he has been a pastor in five parishes; he has worked with three provincials on the provincial council; he has spent most of his time in the ministry of preaching; he has been resident professor in three major seminaries and guest professor in six seminaries; he has worked in the organization of the Conference of Religious in different Indian dioceses. He has also had the opportunity to be one of the facilitators of the Asia-Pacific Joint Studies Programme.

We ask God to bless brother Raj and support him in his new role in the service of the church.

Election of fr. Francisco José MONTALUISA, O.P. as the new Vice Provincial of ECUADOR.

The Master of the Order, Brother Gérard Francisco TIMONER III, O.P., confirmed the election of fr. Francisco José MONTALUISA CHASIQUIZA.

He was born in Latacunga (Cotopaxi - Ecuador) on 24 April 1950. He made his first profession in the Order on October 18th, 1972 and was ordained a priest on March 18th, 1978.

Brother Francisco is a graduate in Religious Sciences.

We pray that God will continue to send him his blessings to support him in his new service to the Order as Vice Provincial.
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF NUNS 2019

From 26 September to 3 October 2019, the International Commission of the Nuns of the Order of Preachers met at the Federal Monastery of Santa Maria de Guadalupe in Mexico.

Theresa Tam, OP, representative of the monasteries of the Asia-Pacific region, asked Sister Mary Augustine Cruz, OP, President of the new federation "Queen of Peace" of the same region, to represent her on this occasion, as she was unable to obtain a visa to travel from Vietnam to Mexico. The other ten regions were represented by their respective delegates.

It is worth mentioning the warm, joyful, fraternal and warm welcome of the Sisters of Mexico, expressed in the welcome speech addressed to all the participants by Sister Margarita Martínez Canales, OP, Federal President. We are grateful for this prodigality of affection and attention.

The most intense moment of this meeting was the arrival of Fr. Gérard Francisco Timoner III, OP, Master of the Order, accompanied by brother Luis Javier Rubio Guerrero, OP, his Assistant for the Latin American and Caribbean Region.

Fr. Gérard was able to listen to each sister talk about the reality of monasteries in each of the regions represented. He urged those present to live a true fraternal communion, in an emotional and effective way. Not only do we care about each other's vocation, but we also pray and work for the arrival of new vocations.

On October 1st, the Master concluded his visit among us by going, with the Sisters of the Commission, to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and celebrating the Eucharist in which many nuns from other monasteries of the Federation participated, as well as various members of the Dominican family, including the Provincial of the brothers, fr. Juan Manuel Hernández Hernández, OP. The meeting ended with a fraternal meal, prepared with the greatest care by the sisters, at the Monastery of St. Catherine of Siena in Mexico City. The Commission continued its work, the objective of which is to outline future guidelines for the adaptation of the life of monasteries and the Constitutions of Nuns to the new ecclesiastical norms derived from the Apostolic Constitution Vultum Dei quaerere of Pope Francis and his Cor orans Practical Instruction.

Fr. Fernando Antonio García Fernández, OP, Assistant of the Mexican Federation, participated in all the Commission's working sessions. During a meeting/dialogue with the Master of the Order, he responded positively to his proposal to become the next General Promoter of the Nuns, replacing Brother César Valero Bajo, OP, as from January 2020.

This was the first time that this International Commission of Nuns had been held outside Europe. This was decided to underline the global character of the presence of the monasteries of the Order of Preachers throughout the world. From now on, the renewed and intense construction of this boundless, emotional and effective communion is open to all of us, which will authenticate our identity as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ and as faithful daughters and sons of Saint Dominic of Guzman.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF NUNS

International Council of the Dominican Family


The annual meeting of the International Commission of the Dominican Family (ICDF), made up of the Master of the Order who convokes and presides over it, the Socius for Apostolic Life, the Coordinator of DSI, took place at the General Curia on November 24, the Representative of the Secular Institutes, the Representative of the Nuns,
the General Promoter of the Nuns, the General Promoter of the Laity, the General Promoter of the Priestly Fraternities, the Coordinator of IDYM and the President of the International Council of Dominican Lay Fraternities.

Within the programmed agenda, the new members were welcomed, a presentation of the different activities developed during the year 2019 was carried out, and the Statutes of the Commission were presented; approved in the plenary session of the General Council in May 2019, the numerals of the Acts of the General Chapter of Biên Hòa 2019 referring to the Commission were read, the theme of the celebration of the centenary of the "Dies Natalis" of Santo Domingo and the participation of the Dominican Family in 2021 was socialized; finally there was a presentation of the projects and the calendar of the Dominican Family for 2020.

The meeting took place in the convent of Santa Sabina. The following participated in this council:

- Gerard TIMONER, O.P. Master of the Order.
- Orlando RUEDA ACEVEDO, O.P. Socius for the Apostolic Life
- Sr. Margaret MAYCE, Coordinator DSI.
- Ms. Yvette ANQUETIL, Representative of Secular Institutes.
- Paola PANETTA. Representative of the Dominican Nuns.
- César VALERO B. O.P., Promoter General of the Nuns.
- Juan Ubaldo López Salamanca, O.P., Promoter General of the Laity.
- Florentino BOLO, O.P. Promoter General for the Priestly Fraternities of the Order.

- Mr. Benz RODIL, International Coordinator - IDYM
- Mr. Gabriel Pinto Barbosa F. Da Silva. Coordinator of the International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities (ICLDF).

Card to the President of the Dominican Republic

To His Excellency
Mr DANÍLO MEDINA SÁNCHEZ
President of the Dominican Republic

Excellency,
As Permanent Delegate of the Dominican Order of Preachers to the United Nations, I have been following
events in the Dominican Republic with interest and concern for several years. As you no doubt know, my delegation has regularly engaged with your representatives in Geneva to address the issue of poor people being evicted from their homes thus becoming even more vulnerable.

The latest reports highlighted by the Asociación Agropecuaria Mamá Tingo de La Culebra Vicentillo are emblematic of what has been happening in El Seibo for several years. Having lost their homes and everything they owned three years ago, and having been persecuted and criminalized for wanting to defend and recover what is theirs, they have walked for five days from El Seibo, desperate, to seek a meeting with you, the President of the Republic, in the hope that you, as the father of the Nation, will hear their cries.

Therefore, I kindly ask you, as custodian of all the people of the Dominican Republic, to receive them personally, together with the Director of the DIA, the Attorney General of the Republic and the Minister of Agriculture, so that you can hear directly, and not only through intermediaries, the real situation of the peasants of La Culebra Vicentillo, El Seibo, to find a solution to this serious land problem.

Your country regularly takes pride in being one of the leading human rights defenders at the UN. We hope that you will not allow yourself to go down in history as a leader who showed indifference to the cries of victims of human rights violations on his own doorstep!

Therefore, I beseech you to come out, meet and listen to these peasants on whose goodwill and hard work you and your country depend, so that, as the father of the Nation, you can discern for yourself and address any just claims they may have.

Yours sincerely,

fr. Michael Deeb, OP
Director of Dominicans for Justice and Peace
Permanent Delegate of the Dominican Order to the United Nations

Commemoration of our deceased brothers and sisters

The Dominican Family came on November 16, 2019, at 9:00 A.M., to the Basilica of San Lorenzo fuori le Mura (also called San Lorenzo al Verano) to participate in the Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Master of the Order, Bro Gerard TIMONER, O.P.
As is traditional, the Dominican Family goes every year to the Verano Cemetery to visit the deceased brothers. It is an opportunity to pray as a family and to visit our brothers in the funeral chapel of the Verano Cemetery.

This year it was also possible to share refreshments in the convent of the Capuchin friars of the Basilica of San Lorenzo.

**Dominican Sisters of the Immaculate Conception 150 years of foundation**

On the morning of Thursday, November 7, the day of all Dominican Saints, we received with joy the Dominican Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, coming from Ecuador, Peru and Mexico, as well as representatives of the MJ, former students, and representatives of the Dominican Family. Orlando Rueda presided at the Eucharist. Javier Rubio, Socius of the Master of the Order for Latin America also greeted the pilgrims through the holy places of the Order of Preachers.

**In the Convent of Santa Sabina, Rome**

**Dominican Month of Peace for India**

To light a light for peace is a gesture of the friars of the Convent of Santa Sabina. The Master of the Order, Bro Gerard TIMONER, OP. Together with the Vicar for Santa Sabina, Bro Alain Arnould, O.P., the Promoter General of Justice and Peace, Bro Michael Deeb, O.P.

Raj Mannes AMIRTHA, O.P. new Socius for Asia and the Pacific, of the Province of India, also lit a candle and walked through the labyrinth seeking peace.
In the Santa Sabina Convent there will be some activities such as:
- Sunday 15 December at 11:00 a.m.: Holy Mass for India.
- Tuesday 17 December, 17:30 h: presentation of the situation in India by Fray Raj (Library Reading Room). Then the rosary will be prayed, the office of reading vespers in the basilica.

Labyrinth: On the first, second and third Saturdays and Sundays of Advent there will be days of prayer in the labyrinth installed in the Basilica of Santa Sabina.

In this labyrinth there is prayer for peace, for the courage to make peace with oneself and with others. One walks praying in silence, looking for the way until arriving at the center. In the center most part of the labyrinth is a larger lit candle, and prayer. There one can write the personal prayer which will be placed on a tray. It is possible to light and communicate the light of other people who want to have the experience.

**Inauguration of the Basilica of St. Sixtus**

**Solemn Eucharist of thanksgiving.**

Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, Vicar of the Pope, presided at the Eucharist, with the Dominican Friars of the convents of Rome celebrating. The Sisters of St. Sixtus expressed their happiness and attention to the donors, workers and laity who made possible the restoration of the Basilica with great historical richness because it was the first convent in Rome where St. Dominic lived with his friars, it is the convent that bears witness to the friars nourished by Los Angeles..
Springfield Dominican Sisters
Dominican Month for Peace 2019
Week 1

“Just before he finished his term a few months ago, our beloved Master,

2017—Solidarity with Dominicans promoting the national Peace Accord in Colombia.
2018—Supported our brothers and sisters struggling for democracy and peace through credible elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Bruno Cadoré, announced that the focus of our annual Dominican Month for Peace for 2019 would be on India. This is a unique moment of solidarity of the whole Dominican Family during Advent, praying that the Prince of Peace will bless all of our efforts.” -Father Gerard Timoner, OP, Master of the Order.

2019—Now we turn to another region and direct our Dominican solidarity to India, a country which, in recent years, has experienced considerable growth and development. However, despite such development, many marginalized and vulnerable sections of society continue to be victims of increasing violence and atrocities.

Amongst these, Dominicans are particularly working alongside abused and violated children, women and indigenous (tribal) people in their yearnings for peace and recognition. By supporting them, we also want to join our efforts to those of the universal Church with regard to youth (Synod on Youth in 2018) and indigenous people (Synod on Amazonia in 2019).

Dominican Family in India (DFI)

159 Friars
452 Sisters in 7 congregations,
5 Nuns,
143 Lay Dominicans in 6 Chapters
109 Dominican Youth

SSince the early 1990s, the DFI has been working unabatedly among the marginalized and disadvantaged sections of society, especially with children, women (3,500) and indigenous rural communities in their quest for dignity, justice and peace, by accompanying them and assisting them to access their rights and protection.

Through many and diverse awareness and sensitization programs in families, schools and communities, the DFI is trying to create safe environments and safe neighborhoods where children can be protected from exploitation and their rights safeguarded. Many children are being rescued from exploitative situations and provided with emotional, medical and legal support to enable secure childhood development.

Under the umbrella of the Indian Center for Integrated Development, there are a number of programs helping youth.
https://icid.org.in/

Week 2—focus on youth,
Week 3—focus on women
Week 4—focus on indigenous
Week 5—Pope Francis’ January 1 Message for the World Day of Peace.

This Month for Peace is an appeal to the Dominican Family for solidarity with our brothers and sisters in India who are
promoting peace and an end to violence and exploitation against children, women and indigenous (tribal) communities.

To show solidarity, Dominicans worldwide are urged to act and pray.

1. Pray each day for the Dominican Family in India and for the people who suffer and those who work to alleviate their pain.

2. In the Springfield area, join us at Sacred Heart Convent Chapel on December 8 at 6 pm for Evening Prayer with preaching.

3. Learn more about India, its history, its people, and life in India today.

4. Share what you learn with others.

Background:
India’s caste system, which splits up Hindus into different societal groups according to their work and birth, is thought by researchers to go back some 3,000 years. Caste is similar to a social class, but mobility is impossible, and discrimination can occur among those of the same economic class.

The Scheduled Caste (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) (scheduled = listed) are officially designated groups of historically disadvantaged people in India. The terms are recognized in the Constitution of India (1950) and the groups are designated in one or other of the categories.

The Scheduled Caste people are ones who were previously untouchables. The Scheduled Tribes are communities of people who lived in tribal areas (mainly forest).

**Dominicans in India**

Green = Dominican Missionary Sisters
Gold = Dominican Sisters of Pompei
Red = Dominican Sisters of the Holy Trinity
Blue = Dominican Sisters of the Presentation
Purple = Dominican of Santa Maria of the Rosary
Black = Friars
Yellow = Nuns
Orange = Union of St. Catherine

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Convento Santa Sabina (Aventino) – Piazza Pietro d’Iliria, 1 – 00153
ROMA E-mail: idi@curia.op.org, press@curia.op.org
Scheduled Castes have been physically and socially excluded from mainstream society, denied basic resources and services, and discriminated against in all areas of life. Accordingly, they face various forms of exploitation, insults and violence, as well as degrading practices of untouchability. The Scheduled Tribes were equally exploited on grounds of not falling within the caste system but having a distinct culture and worldview of their own.

Current Political Power in India

The roots of Hindutva's ethno-nationalist and religious ideology—there is no true Indian except Hindu— are ancient. In the 1990s, the rise of the lower castes and their demand for "positive discrimination" policies led supporters of this nationalist bent to take the political field more seriously. The BJP party (Bharatiya Janata Party), the political arm of nationalist thinking, started obtaining local victories. This brought to power Narendra Modi in 2014 and he was re-elected in 2019. His strategy was to add a strong component of "national-populism" to Hindutva's ethno-religious nationalism. Like all populists, he presents himself as a man of the "people", victim of the political, media and academic establishment. As well, he focused on ethno-religious polarization to minimize the social polarization that excluded the poor from the BJP vote.

By diluting caste identities, this ethno-religious polarization (all Hindus, all castes combined, must unite against non-Hindus) allows it to broaden its electorate. The voters of the middle class are added to those of the poor populations. Indeed, many poor people can identify with Hindu nationalism if they are fueled by the fear of the other and transformed into anger and even hatred.

Some analysts refer to India as an "ethnic democracy", referring to a regime that remains democratic, but where citizens of the majority ethnic group have more rights than others. While the 1950 Constitution gives all religions equal rights in the public sphere, official discourse now refers to India as a "Hindu Rashtra nation"

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN INDIA

Children under the age of 18 comprise 37% of India's population. Many of them experience deprivation such as lack of access to basic education, nutrition or health care. In addition, many are subjected to various forms of abuse, neglect, violence, and maltreatment which dominate their childhood experience.
This is done through various programs, such as street outreach, formation of children’s groups, counselling, life skill education, educational support and sponsorship, provision of safe shelter for children in need, organizing child right awareness and advocacy programs.

The Dominican Family of Friars, Sisters and Laity also work in collaboration with a team of social workers and volunteers in Nagpur district to assist with children who are already living on the streets with adequate and necessary support:

- Providing street-based support, protection, rescue, rehabilitation and integration (with family), maintaining street presence through volunteers, and awareness creation among children about the risks and dangers on the streets.

- Residential care (counselling, food, accommodation, education, life skill development, livelihood training and opportunity, and preparing them for family life). Children are referred to Yuvajyothi or other homes for children.

And to work with economically and socially disadvantaged families whose children may turn to the streets:

- Sensitization visits to the families, life skill education to children in the families, child rights awareness in communities and schools, interventions at the school level in order to retain children in the schools, networking and advocacy.

- Livelihood training and opportunities for women from disadvantaged families at community-based centers.

In addition, all the Dominican entities in India are developing a training project, Safe Childhood: Breaking the silence and preventing incidences of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), to equip sisters and brothers with skills in dealing with child sexual abuse through activities such as:

- Children’s groups and training in safety lessons against CSE
- Increasing the knowledge and life skills of children to understand CSE and appropriately report the same in time
- Awareness and sensitization on CSE in communities
- Strengthening families by assisting parents to understand their children’s issues and how to help them be free from sexual exploitation
- Providing nurturing support by visiting at-risk families at home and ensure family counseling and parenting support
- Training of teachers, counselors and others on child sexual exploitation and enhance their capacity to effectively protect children from sexual exploitation
- Dialogue and networking with schools and Government and Civil Society Organizations

To show solidarity, Dominicans worldwide are urged to act and pray.

1. Pray each day for the Dominican Family in India and for the people who suffer and those who work to alleviate their pain.

2. In the Springfield area, join us at Sacred Heart Convent Chapel on December 8 at 6 pm for Evening Prayer with preaching.

3. According to Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Kailash Satyarthi "Over $150 billion is earned annually in the trade (human trafficking). Over half of these are..."
Advent Intentions Regarding Trafficked Persons

During the Dominican Month of Peace, as we wait in the dark for the coming of our Savior, we pray for all trafficked people especially those in India.

Response: Lord, send us your light.

That those who wait in the darkness of evil, hoping for the light of God’s freedom to shine on them, will feel its warmth, we pray to the Lord . . .

That new light will shine brightly in the dark practices of human slavery and all activities that deprive people of their dignity, we pray to the Lord . . .

That many will wake up to the truth of their selfish ways that exploit and demean women and children, we pray to the Lord . . .

That all who are involved in trafficking human persons will encounter serious roadblocks to their underground activities, we pray to the Lord . . .

That all who labor to bring light and life to trafficked individuals will find strength and peace to continue their efforts, we pray to the Lord . . .

That trafficked persons will find creative and safe ways to escape their captors and arrive at peaceful havens, we pray to the Lord . . .

That all who have been trafficked in the past may find healing and new life in the days to come, we pray to the Lord . . .

That the members of the Dominican Family who are ministering in India will see the fruits of their labor, we pray to the Lord . . .

God of light and darkness, we ask for your wisdom and courage to speak out for those who are trafficked, to change the ways that we also contribute to their pain, and to find ways to end oppressive systems. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Dominican Month for Peace 2019

- Solidarity with the Dominican Family in India

- Love and truth will meet;
- justice and peace will meet;
- Truth will spring from the earth;
- justice will look down from heaven.
- Ps 85: 11-12

- “Human rights are not only violated by terrorism, repression or assassination, but also by unfair economic structures that create huge inequalities.” (Pope Francis)

- Make peace, create peace, be the example of peace. We need peace in the world. (Pope Francis)

- Peace is a gift of God, but requires our efforts. Let us be people of peace in prayer and deed. (Pope Francis)

- Help one another. This is what Jesus teaches us. This is what I do. And I do it with my heart. (Pope Francis)

- War never again!
- Never again war! (Pope Francis)

- “Peace in our homes, our families, our schools and communities. Peace in all those places where war never seems to end. Peace for those faces which have known nothing but pain.” (Pope Francis)
Agenda of the Master of the Order

8 - 11 October: Fraternal visit to the province of Portugal and participation in the celebration of the canonisation of Br. Bartolomé de los Mártires in Braga (Portugal).

November


- 16: Celebration of the Eucharist in the Basilica of San Lorenzo al Verano for the deceased of the Dominican family.

- 17: Participation in the celebration of the Eucharist in thanksgiving for the canonization of St. Bartholomew of the Martyrs in the Church of St. Anthony of the Portuguese.


Calendarium Ordinis Praedicatorum

Is already in force, as of November 30, 2019

On 8 December the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is celebrated, but it falls on a Sunday; therefore it will be celebrated on the following day, 9 December. With the exception of countries authorized by the Holy See to celebrate Sunday.

In the case of Santa Narcisa de Jesús Martillo y Morán, considered as "Mem ad lib", the 9th of December. This saint is called only in the Index Sanctorum et Beatorum OP extra calendarium. The provinces can ask to celebrate it in the provincial calendar, but it does not exist in the calendar of the Order. Obviously, this year it will not be possible to celebrate it on December 9, because of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.
