Let us not go back to the "normality" sick with injustice, inequality and environmental degradation. The normality to which we are called is that of the Kingdom of God, where there is bread for all and the social organisation is based on contributing, sharing and distributing.

Pope Francis
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With the collaboration of the brothers and sisters who participate in the processes of promotion, formation and orientation of the fraternities, the youth movement and the lay groups and associations of the Order, a document has been drawn up which deals with some historical data, elements and general orientations for the laity, as members of the Dominican family and under the charism and spirituality of St. Dominic. These data highlight the synergy between the life and mission of the Order (ACG 2019 Biën Hòa), in the regions and countries where the Dominican family is present through the different apostolates, taking into account that “Preaching of the Gospel is the first ministry of the whole Church. We the baptized have the right and the responsibility to preach the Gospel. Preaching is our identity” (cfr ACG 2019 Biën Hòa 124).
1. The lay fraternities of Saint Dominic

They are present in five regions: Africa (ACLDF), Latin America and the Caribbean (COFALC), Asia-Pacific (APCLDF), Europe (ECLDF), the United States and Canada (DLIPC); represented in the International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities (ICLDF).

According to statistical information as of June 2020, there are 2,180 fraternities with 127,538 members in 75 countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAY FRATERNITIES</th>
<th>REGION</th>
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<th>FRATERNITIES</th>
<th>MEMBERS</th>
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<tr>
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<td>75</td>
<td>2,180</td>
<td>127,538</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. The Dominican Youth Movement (MJD)

It is made up of 4,210 young people organised in 141 groups in 34 countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDYM - MJDI</th>
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<tr>
<td>REGION</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL / JUNE 2020</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>141</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3. Other apostolic groups and associations

There is a register of at least 12 lay groups and associations in Europe and the United States, composed of 475 people, accompanied by some brothers and sisters who are promoters of the Dominican family.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OTHER APOSTOLIC GROUPS AND ASSOCIATIONS</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>GROUPS</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>UNITED STATES</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL / JUNE 2020</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our thanks go to the members of the International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities (ICLDF), to the International Commission of the Dominican Youth Movement (IDYM-MJDI), to the members of the General Curia, to our superiors, to our promoters in the different entities of the Dominican Family and to those who, with their dedication and effort, have shared with us this information which will continue to be consolidated as a contribution to the visibility and presence of the Order in the different apostolates.

This information will be available next month on the Order's website: https://www.op.org

A document is being prepared with the official texts of the Order on the Dominican laity (2000 - 2020). It will contain the numbers of the Acts of the General Chapters and the letters of the Masters of the Order on the subject, as well as specific statistics on the laity in each country and region. This text aims to give continuity to the text entitled "Lay Fraternities and the Mission of the Order of Preachers, Official Texts 1946-1998". (Les Éditions du CERF, Paris 2000), prepared by our brothers Jean-Bernard DOUSSE, OP and Bernard HODEL, OP.

Juan Ubaldo LÓPEZ SALAMANCA, OP
General Promoter of the Laity
Sister Helen Alford, O.P. is appointed member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences

Appointment of ordinary member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. The Holy Father has appointed as ordinary member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences the Reverend Sr Helen Alford, O.P., vice rector of the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

Curriculum vitae
The Reverend Sr Helen Alford, O.P., was born in London on 1 May 1964. She graduated in manufacturing engineering from the University of Cambridge, where she was also awarded a PhD. She is a religious sister of the Dominican Sisters of Saint Catherine of Siena. She has taught subjects related to economic ethics and the history of Christian social thought in several universities. She has served as consultor to the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. She is currently vice rector of the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Rome. She is the author of numerous publications on management theory and corporate social responsibility.

The following is an interview with Sister Helen Alford, O.P., exclusively for IDI, the Dominican Family Newsletter.

1. What will be your main job as Specialist in social sciences?

It's a good question! All the members of the Academy have some kind of specialisation, but they work in a very open way, exploring topics by bring-
The various disciplines of the social sciences together to analyse and discuss key problems of the day, from human trafficking to democracy, and from the future of work to human rights. What can I bring to these discussions? I think one of the most important things is my nearly 25 years of experience in our Faculty of Social Sciences at the Angelicum, where we train students in five main areas: Catholic social thought and social ethics; economics and social communications; law and international relations; sociology and psychology; history and politics. We are not training experts in any of these subjects, but people who understand the basic theories and philosophical presuppositions of these disciplines, and who can talk to experts in these fields. Our aim is to train "change-makers" or "problem solvers": people who can analyse social problems from the different points of view of economics, sociology, political science and so on, and then, on the basis of an ethical/philosophical framework informed by faith, synthesise responses that take into account the rich insights that the different social disciplines can give us. For instance, we have a special programme for migrants, called "STRONG", and each year we do a research project with these students, helping them to be able to analyse their situation and improve it. Two years ago, we studied the business start-ups created by migrants in Rome; this year, we are studying the mental health problems of migrants (https://angelicum.it/academics/social-sciences/programs/). I think the Academy does something very similar, and I will be able to contribute to what the Academy does especially because of my background in the unique academic environment that we have in our own Dominican Faculty of Social Sciences here in Rome.

2. From your research and experience, what can contribute, in terms of university formation, to the Social Doctrine of the Church?

Let's mention three points. Firstly, I can set up and run various programmes in the Faculty. We just mentioned the programme for mi-
grants, which was relaunched in Dec 2018 to coincide with the signing of the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migrants, as a sign of support to Pope Francis who did so much to make those compacts happen. Another programme we hope to launch next year is aimed at spreading Catholic social thought more widely through targeted actions in solidarity with a particular region of the world. Called "CREATE" (Cst Rome Exchange: Advanced Training Experience"), it will include a special set of "Salamanca Process" scholarships which will offer Dominicans, men and women, the possibility to study for a doctorate or to do post-doc work with us, according to the approach of the "Salamanca Process" as proposed by more than one General Chapter.

Secondly, I can work on new ideas and these can feed into the university level formation of students in Catholic social thought. For instance, I recently wrote a preface to a book to be published in Mexico on how the idea of the common good can contribute to our ideas about development; I am also working a lot with a movement based in the UK called "Blueprint for Better Business" which brings the ideas of Catholic social thought into the boardrooms of big business to help them think more profoundly about the purpose of their business, and from that to start to think about how to apply principles like solidarity, subsidiarity and so on (https://www.blueprintforbusiness.org/). All these experiences can then be used to develop and renew the formation we offer in the university. Lastly, I am also involved in online education, through the diplomas we have with Domuni on "Social ethics" and "Catholic social thought and contemporary society" (only in Italian, for the time being at least: https://www.domuni.eu/it/offerta-formativa/pensiero-sociale-cattolico-diploma/).

3. What are the most urgent questions for the Social Doctrine of the Church?

In some ways, the urgent questions are the same as they have always been: How to defend human dignity against the many and varied ways in which it is undermined (including abortion and the other life issues)?
What about the problems of workers, the slow pace of development and the need for peacebuilding? Some problems are more recent, such as those created by international finance, climate change and the migration crisis. Some are just emerging, such as the impact of artificial intelligence on society and the effects of the current pandemic. Whatever the specific problems, however, the basic principles and approach of Catholic social thought helps us to confront them, so learning about it will help us deal with each problem as it arises.

4. COVID 19 Pandemic place us in a new world scenery for the "Dominican preaching"?

The pandemic has created a shared painful experience across the world - a kind of "globalised grief". In some ways, this painful experience of our common vulnerability can unite us across the divisions that we had before. At the same time, as I heard it said recently: "we are not in the same boat, but we are in the same storm". The impact of the pandemic has been very different within our societies; often the most vulnerable workers have been the most exposed to the damage the pandemic has caused. So, our preaching needs to take into account both the shared negative experience of this crisis and the way in which it has widened social divisions between people. Then there is the impact of the pandemic on the way we preach. Preaching during the Eucharist has been through very great changes - preaching online is not the same as preaching to a physical gathering of people! Preaching through education and teaching is also very different if done through digital means, and even if it is done with students in class, the need to wear masks at all times and maintain social distancing means that the social dynamic in the classroom is quite different. Some of these changes will not be permanent, as long as we can find a way to prevent or treat this pandemic, but the move towards using digital means for preaching and teaching is likely to continue. Perhaps such changes would have occurred anyway, but now they have been significantly speeded up. In the Angelicum, we will be looking into some of these issues through the major research programme that we are just about to launch, called "CRISIS: Christian Responses In Solidarity to crises". The various project groups will work for a year and produce their results by July 31 2021. The actual projects are in the process of being approved, but one of them, if it is approved, will look at how the pandemic has af-
fected the religious practices of the different Christian traditions, and preaching will be part of that.

5. If you have some words for the Dominican Family.

When Pope St John Paul II wanted to found the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences in 1990, he turned to a Swiss Dominican brother by the name of Arthur Fridolin Utz, a member of the Province of Teutonia, to help him to do it. This historical fact shows something of the importance of Dominican social ethics, and the part it has played in the foundation of this Academy.

As a Dominican Family we have a marvellous tradition of thought and action on social questions. In the two "Preaching Justice" books that Francesco Compagnoni and I edited, we were able to bring together and recognise some of that tradition, both among the brothers and the sisters. I must admit that sometimes over the last 25 years, when we were struggling to keep our Faculty of Social Sciences going, I began to wonder if we Dominicans were starting to lose the sense of our preaching mission in the social sphere. This was the reason why Francesco and I produced those two books - to record that tradition and to help to keep it alive. Now, however, I can see a greater awareness of, perhaps even a kind of reawakening of interest in, Catholic social thought among the members of our Dominican family. I hope that this nomination of one of our members to the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences will help to renew our commitment further.

Our African brothers and sisters say: "it takes a village to raise a child", and now I would say: "it has taken the Dominican Family to raise this Academician". Thank you for all your help along the way! Let me offer special thanks to the sisters of my congregation, St Catherine of Siena of Newcastle, KwaZulu Natal, for all that you have given me, and to the many Dominican sisters from many congregations from whom I have had the chance to learn a great deal. Thanks, too, to the many friars, especially in the English province and in the Angelicum, as well as some memorable
lay Dominicans, who have helped and inspired me too.

Interview by br. Javier Abanto O.P.

750TH ANNIVERSARY IN CALUERUGA

In 2020, the "Real Monasterio Santo Domingo" in Caleruega has celebrated its 750th anniversary since its foundation and this celebration has been a day of grace for our Community.

The celebration was very different from that distant day in 1270 when King D. Alfonso X arrived in Caleruega with his family and royal entourage, accompanied by bishops, religious, rich men, ... He accompanied by a whole entourage to enter Doña Toda Martínez to the church, holding her by the hand and making her prioress of the Royal Monastery of Saint Dominic of Caleruega; until this year, the villagers celebrated in a medieval atmosphere to commemorate this day, with the music of the time, the street decorations and costumes, and a magnificent theatrical representation of the foundation of the monastery in which they confirmed the royal foundation of more than twenty abbeys. All of this is mentioned in King Alfonso X’s Privilegio Rodado preserved in the archives. This community inspired the script of the work performed, although there are variations on the theme with each new performance. Unfortunately, however, in 2020 it was not possible to continue this tradition due to the coronavirus pandemic.

So we celebrated the 750th anniversary on our own, but with the charm of an intimate community celebration, different in this special year, without compromise or distractions. It was a great joy because, in its simplicity, we lived it in tranquility and...
peace. If every 11th of July we give thanks to God, this year has been a whole day of thanks to God for the long history that precedes us:

Thank you Lord for having inspired King Alfonso X the Wise to found this monastery.

* Thank you, Lord, for watching over the incontestable intercession of Our Father Saint Dominic for us, preserving this monastery, this Community, from any danger: we were the nuns of Canon Dominic, before the Order of Preachers existed, and in 1219, ceasing to be Augustinian canonesses, we professed "in his hands" to become nuns of the new Order of Dominic of Guzman, and it was we who, in 1270, were brought by King Alfonso X the Wise to Dominic's house, the ancestral home of the Guzman-Aza, the monastery he founded in Caleruega and which has always been the home of all Dominicans.

It was a beautiful summer day and at 11.30 a.m. there was a sort of re-opening of the *medieval hall of the monastery* where a new exhibition took place. The Vice-Minister of Culture of the *Junta de Castilla y León*
participated in the event, accompanied by the Director General of Cultural Heritage. They were joined by the Procurator of the Junta, José Ignacio Delgado, a native of Caleruega and a great friend, as well as the mayor of the city, the prior of the convent, Father Arsenio Gutiérrez and Father Basilio.

It was José Ignacio Delgado who wanted this visit to be scheduled precisely on this day, as it coincides with the celebration of the 750th anniversary of the foundation of the monastery by King Alfonso X, a great day in our history.

* This medieval room of the museum was inaugurated on December 3, 2006 by our beloved Father Domingo Iturgaiz, who is at the origin of its construction, and gave it the character of an exhibition hall; it was made to commemorate the eighth centenary of the nuns of the Order of Preachers. On that day, invitations were sent out to many acquaintances who responded with their presence. After the Mass in the church with the Father Provincial, the great hall was filled with guests, who were happy to join us and to get to know this beautiful place where, moreover, never before seen material was exhibited: original documents and the Archives, for a month. Afterwards, the documents and various antique objects were placed in the Archives, as well as elements of the monastery that were of interest to the public. In truth, during these 14 years, this room housed more and more elements that needed to be ordered and classified, keeping a common thread: St. Dominic and this monastery. This was done with the help of staff who were familiar with the subject. All this work lasted quite a long time and was prolonged by the months of confinement, but I was ready to show it during this important visit.

The big difference with the first inauguration was that we were alone, due to the presence of the coronavirus still among us. There was no human warmth: celebration of a sung mass,
greetings, congratulations, sharing of a buffet served in the cloister, ...

As we came down from the hall, we wanted to greet the Prioress, Sister Marguerite, and the community of nuns. We did this by standing in the cloister, with the sisters standing on the steps of the open glass door of the museum and we were able to talk to each other. In fact, after the greetings and introductions, we had a pleasant and relaxed conversation during which they thanked us infinitely for having so well maintained the museum, this monumental and cultural heritage which belongs to the Council. They were grateful and very happy for all that they were able to admire. Our Prioress and all of us thanked them for giving us a grant to carry out this last work and we all expressed our mutual gratitude. Afterwards, they went to see the church and the crypt, and we told them to come back at the end to offer them some bags of our pastries, before going to the hotel in Caleruega to have their meal: "El prado de las merinas", as a traditional gift from the Town Hall.

From 12.15 pm onwards, the whole day was dedicated to us alone. We were able to take full advantage of it. During the meal, the "Cantigas a Nuestra Señora, de Alfonso X el Sabio" resounded to set the mood and there were a few congratulatory phone calls. During recreation, the details for the mass were worked out and at 6.30 pm we went down to the chapel to pray the rosary and then we had mass presided over by Father Serapio, with a homily that was very beautiful in its simplicity. There was also a presentation also referring to so many sisters who preceded us, many of whom are saints.

Then there were the offerings: a book with blank pages to write what the future holds for us, according to the Lord's will; a globe alluding to our intercession with the Lord for the whole world, as Our Father said; a box of biscuits from Caleruega, for the offering of our daily work, and finally the chalice and paten, which were to contain the Blood and Body of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which is given to us every day so that we may have life, and eternal life. At the end of the Mass, we took a picture of us at the altar and another in the cloister garden, and then we ended the day.
with a wonderful cold dinner in the cloister.

We would have liked to have Bishop Carlos Azpiroz OP with us, but he could not be present. However, on the same day, the 11th, during recreation, he was able to be with us because we read his Greeting from Argentina which moved us because it showed his closeness and his sincere affection for us. We felt good about it throughout the day, enchanted by the great letter that he announced to us: a "fraternal letter", as he calls it, which is a whole pastoral letter of 13 pages, in which the new mission of the Archbishop of Bahia Blanca (Argentina) is recorded, sealed and signed by him as Archbishop. We decided to wait to read it later, with more calm and attention, as this letter is the gift to commemorate the 750th anniversary of this monastery in Caleruega. The letter is a beautiful preaching dedicated to us, and it is a treasure to be filed and kept as it is, and also to be applied in our lives, and to be read, reread and meditated upon by each one of us.

Friar Luis Miguel García Palacios op, prior of the convent "San Pablo Apóstol" in Palencia, sent us a long video to congratulate us on the feast of Saint Dominic. We thanked him very much ...and we add another thanksgiving to God:

* Thank you, Lord, for the "gifts" received which have touched us because of the great love they express for Caleruega, for this monastery, for the Prioress, Sister Margarita, and for the Community. Bishop Azpiroz and fr. García Palacios are so dear to us and always so close.

Sister Adela Santamaría O.P.
Real Monasterio de Santo Domingo
CALERUEGA
A lot has happened since Greta Thunberg first went on strike from school in 2018. The Fridays for Future movement (FFF) has become one of the most important movements in recent years. Whether politics, business or science - no social actor is unaffected by the new drive for sustainability and ecology, which is mainly driven by the younger generation. And the church?

First of all, it should be noted that the FFF movement is not religious. Even if believers of all stripes came together under 'Religions for Future' and presented their demands based on their faith, the church should not make the mistake of trying to take over the FFF - that would backfire! And yet there is much to be said for understanding FFF as analogous to Old Testament prophecy. The prophet’s job was not to predict the future, but to critically and loudly diagnose the present. It is the task of the prophets to point out existing problems and to fight tenaciously for conversion and renewal. Even if the FFF has no reference to God - should that prevent us Christians from hearing the voice of the Creator, who cares about his creation, in their demands?

If we attribute something prophetic to the FFF, then we are almost at touchpoints with faith. And there are many! The (at least theoretical) concern for the environment - is what deeply connects the Church and the FFF. We do not need to hide the fact that we have a religious reason for this concern with our belief in the Creator, we will not be hindered from our cooperation. Because the FFF have long understood that all people of good will are important and have to work together.

The orders can contribute even more from their tradition, because poverty - one of the life principles in the monasteries - can certainly be applied to the highly relevant and current concept of frugality. It is excessive consumption, which is a gospel contradiction, that has brought our earth ecosystem to the brink of collapse. The principle of the shared economy is not alien to the monasteries either:
we have shared ownership and use of goods for centuries!

In the common struggle for ecology, the church can again bring its values into discussion, especially among the youth! And one thing we shouldn't forget: In the future, our credibility as a church will increasingly depend on whether our ecological way of life allows us to draw conclusions about God the Creator - or not.

Fr. Simon Hacker O.P.
zimmermann@dominikaner.org
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I greet you all in our Blessed Father Dominic. I hope and pray you all are doing well. In these times when Covid 19 continues to paralyze activities and events in the different continents of the world, we still have signs of hope and joy in our entities in Africa showing that our spiritual life and the work of the Lord cannot be paralyzed. God is still active in raising preachers in his Vineyard. This is the case in the Vice Province of Southern Africa and other entities in Africa. Afridoms Flash no. 332 brings you the ordinations in the Vice Province. All the entities have celebrated ordinations and professions. One or two will do so in a month or two. Subsequent Afridoms Flash will bring you the rest of the celebrations in the other entities.

The Feast of Saint John the Baptist August 29, 2020 intertwined with the ordination of our two brothers Evans Zulu OP to the priesthood and Moses Chanda OP to the diaconate at Our Lady of Mercy Springs, Johannes- burg. Bishop Peter Holiday of Kroonstad Diocese situated in the Ecclesiastical Province of Bloemfontein in South Africa, presided at the Eucharistic celebration.
In his homily, Bishop Holiday said that, regardless of the global Covid 19 pandemic, the Dominicans in Southern Africa have a major role to preach hope and courage amid gender violence against women, child abuse, the influx of immigrants and xenophobia which has sparked social and economic inequalities in most parts of South Africa.

Furthermore, the Bishop urged the brothers to continue to follow the legacy of St. Dominic, to daily walk in his footsteps of dedication and commitment to the preaching of the gospel.

The Vice Provincial, Brother Myke Mwale, OP said that the ordination of the brothers celebrated on the feast of John the Baptist is not a mere coincidence but a reminder to the newly ordained and the rest of the brothers in the Vice Province, that the Order in Southern Africa must continue to be at the helm of the prophetic voice especially now that the world’s dynamics of prayer, community life, study and preaching are changing due to the global Covid 19 pandemic.

Brothers Evans and Moses are both from Zambia, started their initial formation in Johannesburg and later completed their studies in Philosophy and Theology at St. Joseph Theological Institute in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

Br Ernest Mwape OP
Promoter media and communications – Southern African
Despite the ravaging effects of Covid-19 in the world, the Vicariate of Eastern Africa has been blessed with growth and progress, witnessed by recent events. On 4th August 2020, two important events took place in the Vicariate. First, at St. Martin de Porres Priory – Kisumu, the Vicar Provincial, Fr. Gideon Muchira O.P. received the Simple vows of six (6) new Friars during the Eucharistic celebration. These include Friars Lawrence Mwanzia, Vincent Ferrer, Muhatia and Edecius Albert (Vicariate of Eastern Africa) and Friars Sanctus and Jordan (Vice Province of Southern Africa).

At St. Dominic’s Priory – Nairobi, the Prior, Fr. Dominic Mutuku O.P. led in the renewal of vows of Friars Bram Francis Ndichu, Richard Lwanga and Renatus Mwakalukwa O.P.
St. Dominic's Priory was once more graced with the opportunity of celebrating the Solemn Profession of two (2) Friars, Mario Cuvalela and Mariano Domingos O.P. (Vicariate of Angola), on 8th August during the Solemnity of our father Dominic. The Prior was delegated to receive their vows.

Then came the climax of the blessings! The Ordination of four (4) of our Friars on 22nd August 2020, by His Grace Most Rev. Philip Anyolo, Archbishop of Kisumu archdiocese. Friars Gilbert Andama and Sharbel Privatus O.P. were ordained to the Priesthood while Friars Benedict Musaasizi and Dennis Wataka O.P. were ordained to the Diaconate.

Fr. Gideon thanks God for all the blessings He bestows on His servants in season and out of season. He thanks all the members of the Dominican Family, locally and globally, whose support and prayers members of the vicariate always count on.

Submitted by Brother Gideon Kizito, OP
Dear brothers of our Order,

We, the contemplative nuns of the Monastery of St. Catherine of Arequipa - Peru, send you our fraternal greetings, and wish to express in this letter our solidarity with all the members of our Order who, due to the unexpected Pandemic that struck humanity, have been affected physically, materially and spiritually.

In recent months we have seen how Covid-19 has changed the lives of many people, institutions, cities and even entire countries. Instead, our society today was preparing to face multiple threats, of a military, political, ideological, technological, etc. nature, and we were all shocked by the way something as small as a microscopic virus could shake us and impact our lives, affecting us massively, to the point of emptying our streets of their inhabitants and stopping our daily activities, leaving only strictly basic and essential activities.

This new reality has had inevitable consequences on the functions we have carried out as Dominicans in every area of our mission and vocation. News has reached our monastery about the many priests who have managed to continue their pastoral work, mainly carried out through social networks and other virtual media. In spite of all the precautions that our Dominican houses have taken to avoid contagion, we have still had to respond to the needs of our convents and the spiritual assistance of the faithful, and the
Coronavirus has entered our lives, causing the contagion of many of our friars, forcing us to isolate them in their cells, limiting their functions, and even their fraternal contact with the community. The most terrible thing that happened to us was the death of some precious members of our communities.

During all this time in our monastery, we received requests for prayers from Dominicans not only from Peru, but also from Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil and even the United States, due to their unexpected contagion. Faced with this reality that affects all of humanity, and therefore also our brothers and sisters of the Order, that is, the members of our religious family who are so dear to us, we could not sit back and let things continue to happen; The vocation of a contemplative nun is to pray for the salvation of souls, offering all that our life conceals, which is hidden from men, but very evident in the eyes of God, so that during all this time we have redoubled our efforts and our love for you.

This has been expressed above all in the days of intense prayer that we carry out in the monastery, the chains of rosaries, the towers of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament exposed, the fasts and all kinds of prayers that the Blessed Mother Church makes available for the simple devotion of the faithful.

We know that many other monasteries also played an important role. That is to say, from where we are in the Order, as Holy Scripture says, we have offered an unstoppable smoke of incense that rises to heaven (cf. 8,4), as a call to the Lord's help and mercy, so that, in the midst of this great trial that we have had to live through, we may respond with strength, serenity and trust, knowing that, even though it seems that the Lord is asleep and the boat is battered by the storm, we know that if he is with us, we need not fear anything, because "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose". (Rom. 8-28).

It is common today to hear governments, institutions, and even citizens in general, send a message of congratulations to all the doctors, health personnel and police who fought this
war day and night, exposing their own lives and overcoming all the difficult situations that presented themselves. With this letter, we also want to congratulate all the Dominicans who, exposing their own health, did not hesitate to protect their brothers in community, especially the more fragile ones, who were already at risk before the pandemic. In addition, the tasks in the convents were multiplied due to the absence of workers who also respected the quarantine and looked after their own families.

However, the contagion was something latent, especially when we had to go out for basic activities that nobody could do for us anymore. In each community we have brothers and sisters who have shown dedication, generosity and even fraternal responsibility, because when we volunteered to collaborate as far as we could, we were at the same time contributing to the protection of the community itself. As an example we will give that of our dear brother Carlos Terán, who touched us very closely, as he is the prior of the convent of Saint Paul in Arequipa.

The latter has only 6 brothers, two of whom are over 70 years old and two others already ill. Brother Carlos had to take charge of many activities within the monastery, together with another brother who also collaborated with him. They have taken strict measures to avoid contagion, through a community agreement, and here is an anecdote that we share with you: one of our projects this year was to write and publish a historical book on the life of Blessed Anne of the Angels (1602), a famous nun of our monastery, and we had to collect information from different libraries in our town. We had asked Father Prior to grant us access to the books in his old library. Some libraries in our town would have allowed us to do so, as a very special favour, since it was an important work coming from one of the most historical monasteries in the area. Brother Carlos responded to our request by saying that, if circumstances had been different, he would have given us the right of visitation, but that in his community it had already been agreed that they would not allow anyone from outside to enter, in order to avoid the risk of contagion, even if it was a nun, because he wanted above all to respect the community agreement subscribed to by the fathers. We no longer insisted, understanding the situation, and we realised the special care they were taking, since they did not underestimate any risk, being even stricter than we were at the monastery.
As the days went by, we received the news of the sudden death of one of the Dominican friars, friar Héctor Herrera, who worked as director of Radio San Martin, and that two other friars of this community had been hospitalized. As is normal in such cases, the Father Prior was concerned for each one of the members of his community, even going so far as to expose his own health. He provided them with everything they could need. Yesterday they published the news of the death of another of the brothers who had already been hospitalized. All of this made us reflect on the great weight that the priors and prioresses of each of our communities carry, and the great responsibility we have to support them, as well as to collaborate in the health and protection of our brothers.

This is why we wanted to write this open letter to the whole Dominican family, sending our condolences especially to the communities and their families who have been affected by the loss of a brother or sister due to the pandemic.

This struggle is not yet over, but we know that if we work together to remain united, beyond all adverse circumstances, without even trying to accuse those who are guilty or responsible for any aggravating situation, God and our Father Saint Dominic, will help us to overcome everything, the Lord will help us to safeguard what we have learned in these difficult times, those pearls of wisdom that can make us better people and therefore better Dominicans; however, as one priest said, there are many good people and also those who want to become better. In
this bewildering world, what we should aspire to is to be saints!

The times of greatest suffering have been the times when God has given the greatest graces to humanity, and we, as Dominicans, must find, live and communicate these spiritual graces to all souls. From where we are, and in spite of the pandemic, we must continue to be the light and the salt of the earth, for if the light stops shining and the salt becomes bland, what will become of the sinners, the sick, the confused, the distressed, the needy?

Thank you, dear brothers, for reading this letter and letting us share with you our reflections, feelings and experiences which, in this time of pandemic, have been the fruit of our prayers for you.

We always carry them in our hearts, hearts that beat with a very strong love for the Church, and for our beloved Dominican Order.

Fraternally in Saint Dominic,
Dominican nuns from the Monastery of Santa Catalina,
Arequipa - Peru

Convento Santa Sabina (Aventino) – Piazza Pietro d’Illiria, 1 – 00153 ROMA
idi@curia.op.org press@curia.op.org
Penance & Prayer

with the whole
Dominican Family

4 October – 7 October 2020

The Master of the Order invites the Dominican Family to undertake a "triduum of penance" from 4 October - 6 October 2020. Each community is asked to determine the form of communal penance they will do together.

On 7 October 2020, the feast of the Holy Rosary, the Dominican Family is called to pray the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary at 8:00pm in their local time, and to livestream this if possible.

“We offer to God these days of penance and prayer for these intentions: in suffrage for those who died during the pandemic; for the intentions of their bereaved families; for those who continue to suffer the effects of the pandemic, and for those who work to alleviate their suffering.”

– fr Gerard Timoner, O.P.
Master of the Order of Preachers

Questions and more information, contact fr Lawrence Lew, O.P.: rosarium@curia.op.org
On September 28, 2020, Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz De Manila and Companion Martyrs, the Priestly Fraternities of Saint Dominic in the Philippines welcomed a retired bishop and eleven (11) diocesan priests into their brotherhood. Their promise of commitment to live the Dominican way of life was received by the Very Rev. Fr. Napoleon B. Sipalay, Jr., OP, Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, through the Rite of Profession within the Holy Mass held at Santo Domingo Church, Quezon City.

The list of the newly professed members and their incardination are as follows:

Most Rev. Teodoro C. BACANI, DD, Bishop-Emeritus of the Diocese of Novaliches

From the Chapter-in-Formation of the Priory of St. Thomas:

Fr. Jose Francisco C. SYQUIA, Archdiocese of Manila
Fr. Julius R. DE SAGUN, Diocese of Imus
Fr. Richard P. LAGOS, Diocese of San Jose, Nueva Ecija
Fr. Jerome ROSALINDA, Diocese of Novaliches
Fr. Rufino C. SESCON Jr., Archdiocese of Manila
Fr. Rufo Ramil H. CRUZ, Diocese of San Jose, Nueva Ecija

From the Prelature of Batanes:
During his homily, Fr. Sipalay said that it is a great blessing for the Order of Preachers to receive twelve (12) new brothers into the fraternities. He also asked the new members to challenge the Church and the Order with their gifts in preaching.

In attendance were Fr. Quirico T. Pedregosa, Jr. OP, Delegated Formator for Bishop Bacani; Fr. Florentino A. Bolo, Jr., OP, General Promoter of the Priestly Fraternities of the Order; Fr. Arden Xerxes D. Dacuma, OP, Assistant Promoter of the Priestly Fraternities of the Philippines; some members of the Priestly Fraternities; and the Dominican Student-Brothers who served as acolytes, lectors and choir.

After the Holy Mass, the nomination of their respective Chapter names and the election of new officers for each Chapter were carried out at the San Pio V Building. Fr. Sescon was elected Prior of the Chapter of San Lorenzo Ruiz (soon to be canonically erected). For the Prelature of Batanes, Fr. Valencia was elected Prior of the Chapter of St. Albert the Great (soon to be canonically erected).
Dies natalis - Saint Dominic

This section is open to the collaboration of the Dominican Family in all that concerns the Jubilee "Dies natalis" of our founder Domingo.

The publications in this section are artistic creations of one of our brothers of the Dominican Family. They will be available on our website www.op.org, in the section Documents assigned to the Jubilee 2021 (link) for you to use in your local celebrations.
In preparation for the 8th centenary of Saint Dominic “Dies Natalis” as our Master of the Order Fr. Gerard Timoner suggested, we too want to sit “at the table with Saint Dominic”. The hymn, which we present to the entire Dominican Order attention, is intended as a simple proposal for whom wants to share it properly.

This hymn comes from an act of love towards Dominic “God’s gift to Mankind and for Mankind” whose actions and Holiness are still alive today, not only in the historical events regarding his existence, but also in everyday life of people who consider him an example of Holiness.

For this reason, we consider it fundamental to make special mention of the reference sources about Dominic’s life because they demonstrate, immediately and directly, how his paternal and brotherly heart was able to teach and to convey the light of the Gospel. He, who was “tender as a mother and hard as a diamond”, left a deep and lasting mark on the heart of all the people who had known him. Thus, through this Hymn, we prefer to meditate on how his life can affect our everyday reality rather than praising his Virtues.

Singing is a process that comes from inside, i.e. from the heart as well as from the mind, from the prayer as well as from the experience. Music, in some way, makes the strings of the Christian soul vibrate, and together with the text, it seeks to continue the work of evangelization by Dominic. It simply wishes to speak to the heart of every believer so that everyone can contemplate the Lord that is “everything in everyone”.

Our purpose is also to respond to the call made by Pope Francis, who, in the Exhortation “Gaudete et Exultate”, invites us to consider Holiness, not a final goal, but a journey that everyone could fulfill in everyday life. Moreover, we can see in Saint Dominic “the holiness next door” of people who take part in our life’s experience.

In the end, we hope the Dominican Order will appreciate our efforts. But if not, we would be equally delighted, in case, even for a moment, our pro-
posal enabled you to think about Do-

minic and the Jubilee that we are go-
ing to live.

fr. Giovanni Calcara O.P.
Claudio Misuraca

Dominic “man all of God”
Music by Claudio Misuraca
Text by fr. Giovanni Calcara o.p. and Claudio Misuraca
Translation by Vincenzo Misuraca

Father of the preachers,
Dominic “all of God”,
Great witness of true Charity,
living exemplar of faith and grace.

1. The dream that announced your birth
foresaw your fidelity to Gospel,
like fire that burns in the night,
which has been guarded for eight centuries.

2. The star that shone on your forehead
is the holiness that marks your life,
it is the star that guides your Order,
it is like an anchor in a stormy sea.

3. The love of Christ leads you to
transform dead skin into living skin,
bears fruit at the ends of the world
and enriches you with the royal stole.

4. The golden heaped wheat rots,
sown, however, bears much fruit:
you sent your brothers into the world
to sow the eternal Word of the Father.
5. You, germinating seed of life
    that God gives to the Creation,
    you announce the Son of God, while begging
    and giving joy, eternity and life.

6. You are a fruitful root,
    from which the holy order sprouts,
    a fragrant and very broad garden,
    whose fruit is the big cross of Christ.

7. It is you who spoke with God
    and the Almighty cares for you,
    but you also spoke of God
    and light is shining from your face

8. The Rosary revives all Virtues
    and keep alive Charity in man.
    By preaching you taught the prayer,
    which is addressed to the "Mother of grace".

9. You saw Maria in your dream,
    Mother and "help of Christians",
    who welcomed all your children
    under her mantle of mercy and love.

10. Praise be to the triune and unique God,
    to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
    you raised your humble and burning prayer
    together with the prayers of believers.
Calendarium Liturgicum
Ordinis Prædicatorum

IDI 602 - SEPTEMBER 2020

Convento Santa Sabina (Aventino) – Piazza Pietro d'Iliria, 1 – 00153 ROMA
idi@curia.op.org
press@curia.op.org
Calendar of the Master of the Order

[QR Code]

ordo_praedicatorum
Villa Palazzola, Rocca di Papa

Alban Lake