



# MISSION WEST

A newsletter for friends of the Dominican Friars, Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

## DEFENDING BEAUTY IN THE MODERN WORLD

Dominicans protect what is sacred

- ✦ Prepare for the Paschal Triduum
- ✦ A Medieval Order in the Digital Age
- ✦ Celebrating our 2023 Jubilarians
- ✦ The Triple Jubilee of Aquinas

## DID YOU KNOW?



The skull and other relics of St. Thomas Aquinas were unveiled for the 700th anniversary of his canonization at the Dominican Convent of Toulouse, France. (image: Gauthier Art)

The Dominicans are currently celebrating the triple jubilee of St. Thomas Aquinas! This year marks the 700th anniversary of the canonization of Aquinas (July 18). In 2024, we commemorate the 750th jubilee of Aquinas' death (March 7). And in 2025, we commemorate the 800th anniversary of his birth (January 28). This triple jubilee celebration is an opportunity for many blessings. As such, **the Holy See has granted a plenary indulgence** "to the properly disposed faithful who will participate in the Eucharistic celebrations organized by the Dominican Family in our churches and schools on the important occasions of the jubilee of the canonization and death of St. Thomas Aquinas, and to the faithful who will make pilgrimages to Churches, shrines and oratories under his patronage." This triple jubilee and the indulgences associated with it run from now through 28 January 2025.

## THE QUOTABLE DOMINICAN

### St. Vincent Ferrer, O.P.

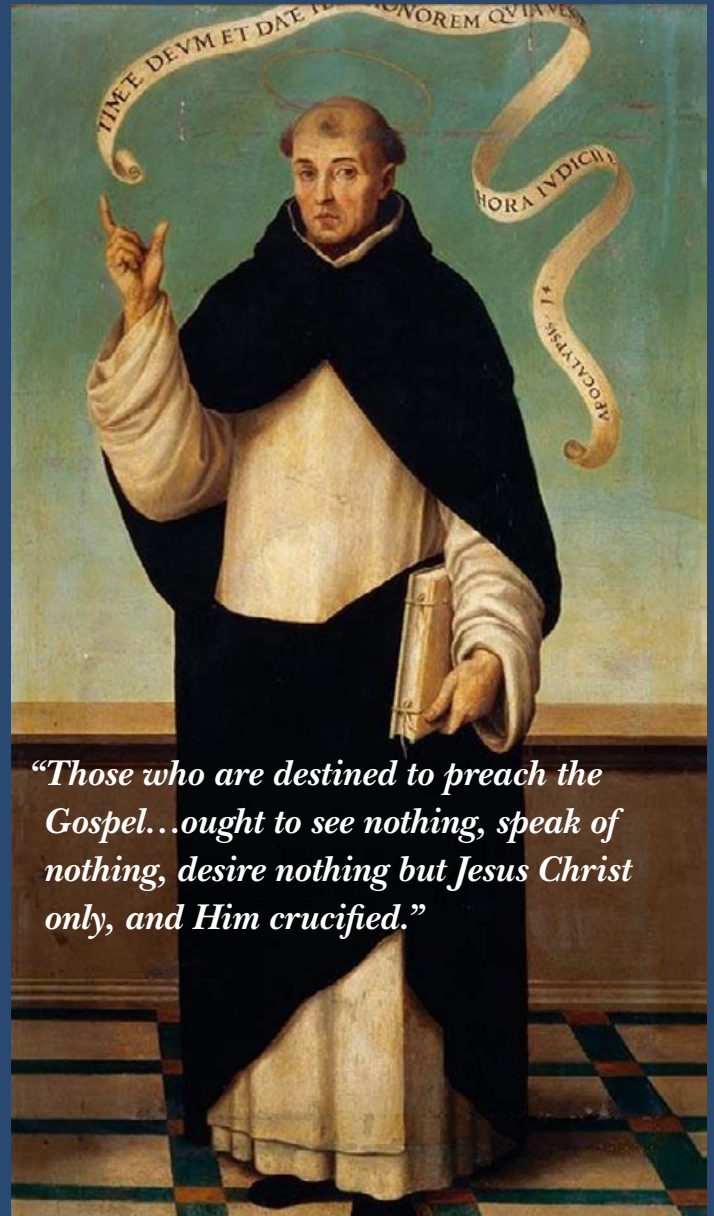
1350-1419

Patron Saint of Builders

Feast Day: April 5

(May 5 in the Dominican calendar)

St. Vincent is the patron saint of builders due to his reputation for "building up" and strengthening the Church through his zealous missionary spirit and inspired preaching. He eagerly preached the Gospel, stressing the need for repentance, and sought to heal the Great Western Schism within the Church.



*"Those who are destined to preach the Gospel... ought to see nothing, speak of nothing, desire nothing but Jesus Christ only, and Him crucified."*

## From the Vicar Provincial for Advancement



Dear Friends in Christ,

We are in the midst of Lent—the season which is marked by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for our own deeper conversions and the salvation of the world. It culminates in the great drama of Holy Week and Easter, which draw us into the mystery of our salvation from hell and the opening of heaven. From this time, it has been possible to be a Saint—which is our universal call!

In this edition of our newsletter, we have a reflection by Br. Philip Neri, O.P., on the three most important days of the year—the Paschal Triduum. This comprises Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. During these three days, our liturgies (Church services) are different from any other time of the year. They are profound and deep and help us to gain insight into the mystery that changed the course of our human destiny! Plan time to attend these liturgies this year and check out Br. Philip's commentary on these days.

Our Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, also great lovers of St. Thomas Aquinas' teaching, have developed a teaching series based on the virtues and Aquinas' moral philosophy and theology. We have an interview in this newsletter with Sr. John Dominic, the Vicaress of our Sisters' congregation and also one of the masterminds of the teaching series on the virtues. In our age when so much confusion surrounds Catholic ethical and moral teaching, and where so many people look to either following, or dispensing from Catholic "rules," the Sisters have a fresh approach to the subject. It's well worth a read!

Please know of our prayers for you and your loved ones as we all go through this Lenten process of conversion and deepening our spiritual lives. Please pray for us too, as we keep radiating the Joy of the Gospel with charity and clarity—especially in our dark and cold world!

In Christ and St. Dominic,

Very Rev. James Junipero Moore, O.P.  
*Vicar Provincial for Advancement*

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Cover Photo: Brought to New Heights: Fr. Chrysostom Mijinke, O.P. celebrates Mass outdoors on a young adult hike. Photo credit: Andrei Viesca Novack.

## Arc of the Triduum

How to better experience the three Holy Days before Easter

A well-prepared celebration of the Paschal Triduum puts even the finest live theater to shame. Some of the most iconic sights and sounds in any culture's history come to us through the ancient traditions by which we commemorate Our Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Even if we don't have a liturgical "job" to do or even if we're not especially confident singers, we're never just "watching" the liturgy happen. Instead, we are really and actively participating in the mystery of our redemption. As you prepare to participate in this year's Triduum, you might consider paying particular attention to the psalm responses from each of the three days:



—Br. Philip Neri Gerlomes, O.P.,  
student brother

## HOLY THURSDAY

*“Our blessing cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.”*

Each Triduum begins with recalling the Last Supper, during which Jesus gave us the Priesthood and the Eucharist as His timeless means of remaining present to and in His Church. Jesus the Eternal High Priest offers Himself in one sacrifice, a sacrifice sufficient for the forgiveness of all sins. Partaking of His own Body and Blood unites all of us, around the world and through the ages, to that same sacrifice. The source and summit of our identity as the Church is celebrating that mystery literally every day, but it all begins on Holy Thursday.

## GOOD FRIDAY

*“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”*

Thus, united to the Body sacrificed once and for all, we honor the sacrifice itself on Good Friday. These words express Jesus’s perfect obedience to God the Father. In making them our own, we remember how our communion with Jesus invites us into the very life of the Holy Trinity. We die to our own desires so that the Beloved Son of God can live in us, so that we can endure whatever it takes to live as faithful sons and daughters of the same Almighty Father.

## EASTER VIGIL

*“Let us sing to the Lord! He has covered Himself in glory!”*

There are many sung responses during the Easter Vigil, but this canticle from the Book of Exodus is probably the most memorable. As People of God, we can rightly claim Moses and the Israelites as ancestors. In joining their song of triumph after God rescued them from the Egyptians through the waters of the Red Sea, we give thanks that God now rescues us from death itself through the waters of Baptism.

## Master of the Order Visitation

It was a joy to have the Master of the Order, Fr. Gerard Timoner III, O.P., visit the Western Dominican Province in October 2022.



## Praying for Those who Suffer





# 2023 Jubilarians Celebrate Decades of Ministry

Thank you for supporting our friars through decades of priesthood!

## 50 YEARS



Fr. Sergius Propst, O.P.

## 25 YEARS



Fr. Alejandro Crosthwaite, O.P.



Healing Mass on World Day of the Sick, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.



Fr. Steven Maekawa, O.P.



Fr. Carl Schlichte, O.P.

## 10 YEARS



Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz, O.P.



Fr. Ambrose Sigman, O.P.

*Our sincere gratitude is extended to all those who helped make this edition of the newsletter possible.*

## A Medieval Order in the Digital Age

Your support is helping the Dominican Family's new media collaborations respond to the challenges of the Apostolic Age

**T**his past year, the Western Dominican Province partnered with the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, and their Openlight Media division to create a robust, media-rich virtues education curriculum. The curriculum for elementary and middle school is called "Education in Virtue," and the curriculum for high schoolers is called "Restored in Christ."

The success of the project is spreading to hundreds of schools across the U.S. (and growing), and we were fortunate enough to hear from the head of the project, Sr. John Dominic Rasmussen, O.P., as well as our own Fr. Brad Elliott, O.P., who helped write for the program and was featured in the video series.

Fr. Brad Elliott, O.P.

How did you get involved with *Restored in Christ*?

My involvement with *Restored in Christ* occurred after Sr. John Dominic, seeing the media evangelization outreach of the Western Dominican Province, invited me to be a part of the project. From there, it was a natural fit for our two communities to work together. So in between finishing my doctoral studies, I spent time traveling to their studio in Ann Arbor to help create the videos.

How does *Restored in Christ* speak to the Dominican way of life?

*Restored in Christ* recasts the call to preach for the salvation of souls into modern modes of communication, that is, the mode of video media. What is more, it's providing important distinctions and clarity to a topic that is increasingly muddled by our relativistic modern culture. And bringing clarity with charity is something Dominicans have been doing for 800 years!







Fr. Brad Elliott, O.P., and Sr. Maria Catherine Toon, O.P., filming the *Restored in Christ* video series.

### What is our responsibility to teach the Truth?

As Dominicans, we are gifted with a robust knowledge of the intellectual tradition of the Church. This wealth cannot remain idle; we have a responsibility to give it away to those who are in need through preaching and teaching. All of us are called, by virtue of our baptism, to defend and share the Truth with the world.

### Will we see you in any future video series with the Dominican Sisters?

By God's will, yes! *Restored in Christ* has been a fantastic project that has already generated a flood of new and creative projects in the future. Ultimately, we give everything to the Holy Spirit to guide—His plans are more incredible than anything we can imagine!

## Sr. John Dominic Rasmussen, O.P.

### Who are the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist?

The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, were canonically established in 1997. We seek to share God's message of faith and the joy of religious life with the modern world through various outreaches including education, vocations, and culture.



Sr. John Dominic Rasmussen, O.P.

Beginning with four foundresses, our community has now grown to over 145 Sisters and our Motherhouse is located in Ann Arbor, Michigan. In 2019, we opened the first phase of a new large convent named Our Lady of Guadalupe Priory in Georgetown, Texas.

Our apostolate is preaching and teaching, with prayer and contemplation at the very center of all we do. Starting each day with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and a renewal of our Marian consecration,

we go forth to teach in classrooms from preschool through college all over the United States. In addition to teaching in 14 K-8 schools, 14 high schools and 3 universities, our sisters also serve as librarians at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

Openlight Media was established to further our apostolate into the publishing and digital arena. It is our hope to be an accessible and trustworthy place to assist educators, families, and individuals in living fully the Christian life.

**You've said "Education in Virtue" is more than a curriculum; it's a way of life. What do you mean by that?**

As Dominicans, it just seems logical to understand the virtuous life as a way of

life. It is a part of our formation and study as we learn to integrate the Dominican charism. Therefore, it was natural for us to include virtue education in our mission and philosophy of Catholic education. Yet, it became apparent that what was once incorporated into the culture of Catholic schools had started to diminish.

A desire to better understand and teach about virtue arose among the faculty and staff of the school where I served as Principal. Therefore, to make it accessible, we joined together and developed intuitive resources that assist the educator or parent in instruction. For educators, this often requires a mental pedagogical shift from a curriculum to a way of life. As people change, the culture changes, and as the language of virtue is taught, the atmosphere of the school or home changes to a more positive worldview. By intentionally teaching virtue, the whole community or family now has a common language and understanding of this beautiful way of life. It is a lifestyle that resonates with our innate goodness as a son or daughter created in God's image and likeness.

### What is Restored in Christ?

Thanks be to God that "Education in Virtue" is currently in over 800 schools and 8 (arch)dioceses, including Sacramento, CA, and Portland, OR. The resources were developed for the elementary level. And from the positive impact, administrators and teachers requested resources for high school. *Restored in Christ* is a video series and book to instruct high schoolers and older in this way of life, and to understand it can't just be regulated to a week of instruction. Instead, it is a means to living fully the Christian life.

**Fr. Brad Elliott, O.P., and Sr. Maria Catherine Toon, O.P., host the *Restored in Christ* series together. Why did you partner with the friars for this project?**

It seemed natural for us to collaborate with the Dominican Friars as we preach and teach and bring our own charism into this "new public square"—the Internet.

**A Sneak Peek  
into the  
Uplifted Video  
Project!**



We are formed and educated in philosophy and theology from the rich tradition within the Order of Preachers—many of whom are saints. We have an essential contribution to make in the field of education, catechesis, and evangelization and we don't have time to be siloed in our approach. St. Dominic set the tone with his early support of the formation of the nuns—women religious. We see this as our way to gather forward the spirit of our founder. We hope *Restored in Christ* is just the beginning of more productions.

### What is your hope for those who experience the *Restored in Christ* series?

It is our hope that *Restored in Christ* will be a trusted resource for those seeking to navigate the many conflicting messages. Included within *Restored in Christ* is *Uplifted: What Makes You Happy?*—an engaging series that poses the big questions of life and offers appealing, true answers.

It is often difficult for young people, even adults, to recognize their virtue strengths. The Virtue Strength Survey will be a validated survey that enables people to know their virtue strengths and the virtues to be cultivated.

Practical tips for living this way of life will be found in the *Virtue Field Guide*. These components are interrelated and will aid people in living a whole, complete life uniting body and soul—mind and heart.

### Why is faith formation, particularly the virtues, so important in today's world?

People are drawn to goodness, and virtues are the means to bring out the innate goodness in every person. By intentionally teaching about virtue, we raise the bar in our conversations and how we perceive others.

As I mentioned earlier, education in virtue has diminished, and we are striving to bring back what has formed the faith and character of people for centuries. Furthermore, we know from research in neuroscience that experience is the architect of the mind and the brain has the ability to grow new neural networks and make old networks obsolete. This is called neuroplasticity. Therefore, this information reinforces how we must educate the young in truth, beauty, and goodness, so their minds are properly formed—literally hard-wired correctly.

Join us for

# THE CLOISTERS GALA

*A private evening benefitting the Dominican Friars*

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023  
The Priory of St. Albert the Great  
Oakland, California

Honoring



DR. SCOTT HAHN  
*O Lumen Award*



MRS. DOROTHY PORTNER, DM  
*Alemany Award*

RSVP  
BY APRIL 8TH



Scan the QR code or visit [opwest.org/gala](https://opwest.org/gala) for details

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



April 22 - The Cloisters Gala  
May 20 - DSPT Graduation  
May 26 - Ordinations to the Presbyterate

TO LEARN MORE VISIT [OPWEST.ORG](https://opwest.org)

## A Profile in Generosity: The Matly Family

### Living a Life of Prayer with the Friars

#### How did you first meet the Dominicans?

Living in Oakland near St. Albert's Priory, I saw the friars walking around College Avenue being real life witnesses to the faith. I came to visit the priory for Sunday Compline about two years ago and have been coming with my son, John, ever since.

#### Do you have a favorite memory of the Dominicans?

**Michael:** Br. Elias and Fr. Stephen Maria once came to bless my new office. It showed me how available the friars are. I see the Dominicans out and about in the community—they are accessible. You can pray with them, you can go to Mass with them, and you can be friends with them. You can even do something as simple as asking them to bless your office.

**John:** I like when I got to come to dinner at St. Dominic's in San Francisco and I met the Master of the Order. I also got to have sparkling cider and a cheese plate!

#### What do you enjoy about coming to Compline with the friars?

**Michael:** Compline is a good way to start and end the week with prayer with my son, John. We get so busy in life and Compline is only 20 minutes. It is nice to come together to pray and catch up before continuing the week.



Michael and his daughter Lilian with two of their Dominican friends: Fr. Anselm (L) and Fr. James (R).

**John:** Compline has become a good tradition with my dad. Sometimes my whole family comes, but usually it's a father-son thing. I also like meeting all the nice friars here and becoming friends with them.

#### Has Compline taught you anything about the Dominicans?

I have gained a respect for the Dominican Order and its traditions. In the modern world, it is so easy to lose touch with ritual, and the Dominicans are keeping those traditions and prayers alive. They are an anchor.

#### What advice would you give to a parent raising children in the faith?

Children model a lot of what their parents do. You have to walk the walk and lead them in the faith. You need to go to confession and Mass with them and show them how to pray. It needs to be a priority in your home that you are an archetype and that you create the family ritual. It's also important to do things one-on-one with each child. I will be taking my daughter to Lourdes later this year, and Compline is something I do with John. It makes a significant difference when you give undivided attention to each child.

You, moreover, cannot be afraid to speak the truth to your children. There are many forces that are after your children that want to exclude you from their lives. You cannot be afraid to fight back and to preach the truth in your home!



A father-son tradition: Michael and his son John praying Compline at the Priory of St. Albert the Great.



Michael and Rana Matly with their children Lilian and John.