Mission West

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

Order of Preachers Reaches Historic Milestone

To Praise, To Bless, To Preach

St. Dominic, filled with compassion for the salvation of souls, founded the Order of Preachers in 1216 to help a world suffering from intellectual and spiritual poverty. He heard the call to praise God and His holy name, to bless His people with peace, and to preach the Word in order to stir hearts and convert sinners.

The Dominicans continue that tradition today in 2016, as we celebrate 800 years of preaching the Gospel and setting the world on fire for Christ.

Over the last eight centuries, St. Dominic’s mission has inspired countless holy men and women to follow in his footsteps. And these friars, sisters and nuns have traveled and...
settled in every corner of the earth to proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord.

St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Albert the Great, both blessed with astounding intellect and supernatural wisdom, taught the world about the Incarnate Word.

St. Catherine of Siena brought peace to the warring city-states of 14th-century Italy and provided counsel to a pope in need.

Antonio de Montesinos and Bartolomé de las Casas stirred the consciences of early landowners in the Americas unwilling to change systems of slavery.

In our own Dominican Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, we traverse the wilds of Alaska and the harsh climes of Mexicali. We minister at numerous parishes throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, the Silicon Valley and along the West Coast. We serve on university campuses in Washington, Arizona, Oregon and Utah. We care for those affected by AIDS/HIV at the St. Therese Center in Las Vegas, and work with truth-seeking scholars at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley.

Thank you for joining with us to make our lives and ministry possible, and for celebrating our 800th birthday — a milestone not possible without God’s grace and your generosity.

Dominicans are called ‘to praise, to bless, and to preach,’ and with your help we will continue to do so every day and in every corner of the world.

The 800th Jubilee runs from November 7, 2015, through January 21, 2017. To learn more about the Jubilee, visit opwest.org/jubilee and be sure to watch the Jubilee video!

Did you know? The Pope’s garments are modeled after those of Pope Innocent V (1276), a Dominican who wore his habit throughout his pontificate. His successors liked the look so much that they modified the design for their own garments.
Thank You for the New Van!

Your generosity helps the novices

A big part of being a novice brother is learning about Dominican ministry while touring the Province. The last Novitiate van (the “big red friar engine”) died on the streets of San Francisco last year, but thanks to your generosity, we now have two vans for the novices to use — a Ford Transit and a Honda Odyssey.

Thank you for giving the brothers the resources they need to grow in their vocation. As the novices climb in for another long trip, they remember you in their prayers with gratitude and thanksgiving.

Requiescat in pace

Fr. Felix Francis Edward Cassidy, O.P.

Fr. Felix Francis Edward Cassidy, O.P., died peacefully on Friday, November 13, 2015. Born to Edward and Mildred Cassidy on June 3, 1927, he was raised in San Francisco’s Pacific Heights and baptized at St. Dominic’s Church in San Francisco. After joining the Merchant Marine at 17, and serving in World War II, he was clothed in the Dominican habit on August 14, 1948 and ordained a priest on June 11, 1954 at St. Mary’s Cathedral in San Francisco. He was devoted to Our Blessed Mother and to St. Jude, and he lived life to its fullness, displaying his childlike simplicity and playfulness — yet, always remaining a model of Christian virtue. He was a confessor and spiritual adviser to countless souls throughout the years.

Fr. Paul Scanlon, O.P.

Fr. Paul Scanlon, O.P., died on November 19, 2015 at Glendale Memorial Hospital in Southern California. Born on January 22, 1933, he professed first vows on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1953, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 12, 1959. At the age of 36, he was elected provincial and served the brothers as superior of the province. Afterwards he ministered as pastor at our mission in Mexicali for nine years and eventually at Holy Family Cathedral in Anchorage, Alaska. For a time he was responsible for the brothers in formation at St. Albert’s Priory, a position he took very seriously. He was a missionary, serving the poor and needy, and all those on the fringes of society.

Donations to opwest.org/frfelixmemorial and opwest.org/frpaulmemorial will support the education of future priests and brothers of the Western Dominican Province.
Thousands of devotees filled the streets of San Francisco and St. Dominic’s in the annual St. Jude pilgrimage.
St. Jude Novena and Pilgrimage Draws Huge Crowd

Dominicans lead thousands through the streets of San Francisco

Fr. Boniface Willard, O.P., lead this year’s Solemn Novena (10/20–10/28) in honor of Saint Jude Thaddeus, patron of difficult causes. The annual Novena and pilgrimage is held at St. Dominic’s in San Francisco, home to the West Coast shrine of St. Jude.

The pilgrimage ended with a bilingual Solemn Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. William J. Justice, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

Devotees make the annual pilgrimage starting from a parish about four miles away and walk in procession to St. Dominic’s while carrying the statue and relic of St. Jude, singing hymns, and praying. Onlookers are often inspired to stop and pray with the devotees, or stand in reverent silence. It’s a beautiful public witness to the faith.

Your prayers give us strength to preach the Gospel and bear witness to the Truth of Christ, along the streets of San Francisco, and throughout the world.
Friars Head East for Pope Francis’ Visit

Dominicans at the World Meet of Families and St. Junipero Serra’s Canonization

During Pope Francis’ recent visit to the United States, thousands of church leaders, religious and lay faithful gathered in Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families (WMF).

Thanks to you, Dominicans from the Western Province were also there.

Fr. Stephen Maria Lopez, O.P., Vocations Director, was present at the exhibition hall to greet pilgrims and promote vocations to the Dominican Order. He was constantly stopped by attendees asking questions, wanting photos, or needing prayers and guidance on a variety of issues.

Even more friars from the Western Province, including many student brothers, were able to join the Holy Father for the canonization of St. Junipero Serra on September 23 in Washington D.C.

Thank you for helping our friars promote the Order and preach the Gospel all over the country, especially at important gatherings like the World Meeting of Families.

(L–R) Brs. Thomas Aquinas, Damien, Fr. James, Brs. Matthew, Joseph, and Frs. Robert and Stephen Maria outside the Eastern Dominican Province’s House of Studies during the WMF.
Fr. Joseph Sergott, O.P. (left) and Fr. Stephen Maria Lopez, O.P. (right) with their Dominican brethren from the Eastern Province before the canonization Mass of St. Junipero Serra.

As Vocations Directors for their respective provinces, Fr. Stephen Maria, O.P. (L) and Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P. (R) were at the WMF exhibition hall ready to help men and women discerning a vocation to religious life.
The annual Dominican Institute of Student Ministry (DISM) brings friars and student leaders together for training in evangelization and ministry on college campuses.

Dominicans Empower College Students to Preach the Faith

Your help strengthens campus ministries

Leaving home and heading to college can be difficult for many young people in today’s society. The temptation to leave one’s faith behind is especially present on secular campuses where the Catholic Church is viewed as an out-of-date institution. Thankfully, Dominicans are ministering to thousands of college students across the Western United States, helping them to navigate the trials of young adulthood.

In our province, Dominicans run campus ministries (aka Newman Centers) at eight different universities: the University of Washington, University of Oregon, University of Arizona, University of Utah, University of

All Smiles: Fathers Marcin, Peter, Boniface, and Jacek prepare to celebrate Mass at DISM
Student leaders are blessed as they begin their ministry training.

More Laborers for the Vineyard

You’ve helped six more men receive the habit of St. Dominic

Each August, we welcome the next class of novices, those men who have devoted themselves to learning the way of St. Dominic, aspiring to soon take their simple vows as Dominican student brothers.

God has blessed the Dominican Order across the country — the world — with an increase in vocations. In our province alone, 27 men are currently in formation. Your prayers are working!

May God bless you abundantly for supporting those who have committed themselves to a radical life in the Gospel.

Please pray for these novices, and for all those discerning religious life. Praise God and St. Dominic for these men, zealous for the salvation of souls!

BR. COLUMBAN MARY HALL
Houston, TX

BR. ANDREW MARIE MCCULLOUGH
Bremerton, WA

BR. SCOTT NORGAARD
Phoenix, AZ

BR. PATRICK ROONEY
Oakhurst, CA

BR. JOSEPH MARIE DINH
Houston, TX

BR. DAMIEN DOMINIC NGUYEN
Campbell, CA

Nevada — Las Vegas, UC San Diego, Occidental College, UC Riverside, and Stanford.

Each summer, these Dominicans, along with staff and student leaders, gather for the Dominican Institute of Student Ministry (DISM) at St. Albert Priory. This conference helps the students grow in their faith and provides leadership training so that they can return and expand the impact of their campus ministries, reaching more souls than ever before.

Given the Order of Preachers’ long association with academia, campus ministry is a natural fit for Dominicans. And when you support Dominicans, you’re helping us minister to thousands of college students yearning for real truth and meaning in their lives. Thank you.
FR. RENZ AWARDED $10,000 GRANT FROM TEMPLETON FOUNDATION

Fr. Christopher Renz, O.P., Academic Dean at DSPT, was awarded $10,000 from the John Templeton Foundation to develop and offer a course entitled Liturgical Piety: Anthropological Foundations of Catholic Worship. The class utilizes the insights of an exciting new field in science called neuroaesthetics, and is designed to help seminarians and priests explore the historical, philosophical and biological aspects of the meaning of conscious and active participation by the laity in Mass. Students will learn how the natural ability of the human person to grasp and comprehend experiences of mystery, especially as manifest in natural beauty and the fine arts, impacts our participation in the Paschal Mystery.

A BIG THANK YOU!

The sincere gratitude of all the Dominican Friars of the Western Province go out to our friends at the Catholic Newman Center at UW (Seattle, WA) for recently completing their Mission West: Campaign for Dominican Friars ministry goal. We also thank all those ministries throughout the province who have previously reached their goals and those who continue to work towards them.

Your support enables us to continue our 800 year mission to preach the Gospel. Thank you for making our ministry possible, and for sacrificing so generously. May God bless you all abundantly!

DON’T MISS OUT! GET THE NEW DOMINICAN E-NEWSLETTER!

Did you know the Western Dominican Province has a great new monthly e-newsletter?

It’s a quick and helpful way to stay up-to-date on the friars, get connected to the latest Dominican activities, videos and news, and enrich your Catholic faith — all at the same time!

SIGN-UP IN A FLASH ON THE HOMEPAGE AT WWW.OPWEST.ORG

Have a story idea or want to help with the newsletter? Email us at newsletter@opwest.org

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. DOMINIC

Join the Dominicans for the 800th Jubilee Pilgrimage!

Don’t miss this incredible opportunity to retrace the life of St. Dominic on pilgrimage with friends and friars from the Western Dominican Province, June 5–17, 2016.

www.opwest.org/jubilee/pilgrimage
MISSION WEST CAMPAIGN CLOSE AND UPDATE: $3.37M

Over the past three years, the Mission West: Campaign for Dominican Friars has raised critical funds to care for our aging and infirm friars, the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, and the initial and ongoing formation of Dominicans.

As you may recall, we initially planned to run a $15m campaign to address the above mentioned needs while expanding related endowments. We came to understand that, though noble, our initial goal was overly ambitious at the time.

Thus, we reassessed our abilities and focused our attention on supporting our ministries in reaching their respective campaign goals by December 31, 2015. Those new goals totaled $2.8m. We’re very happy (and very thankful to you!) to now report our campaign has reached our goal! Including Rosary Sunday funds, we’ve now raised a total of $3.37 million for formation, elderly friar care, and our Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology.

Your generosity has been nothing short of extraordinary. You’ve blessed us so much and given us the strength and resources to advance the mission of St. Dominic.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT! Please continue to pray for us as we look to the next steps of strengthening our province and expanding our service to the people of God.

END OF YEAR GIVING IS HERE!

Make a gift and share the light of your faith with the world

Your generous gift helps the friars bring the light of Christ to the dark corners of our world.

With the tax year ending December 31st, please consider the Western Dominican Province in your end of year charitable giving plans, and help us give Christ’s light to souls in need.

Thank you for your kindness!

GIVE SECURELY AND EASILY ONLINE AT OPWEST.ORG/DONATE

OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE IS EXTENDED TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED MAKE THIS EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE.
Rosary Sunday – A Blessing for the Brothers

*Your support helps to make their vocations possible*

When men accept God’s call to enter the Dominican Order, they trust in the generosity of faithful people like you. Right now, 27 faithful young men are doing just that.

Thank you to everyone around the province who has made a gift, or offered a prayer, toward our annual Rosary Sunday: Dominican Student Appeal. Your support is a great blessing to the Dominicans, and a priceless gift to the world through the vocation of these faithful men.

**Every time I praise God with a Te Deum during the Liturgy of the Hours, I do so with the specific intention of offering my thanks for all the benefactors who freely give so that I may freely live the life of a Dominican friar. Their generosity allows me to generously serve the Gospel of Christ, and for this I am always grateful.**

— Br. Thomas Aquinas Pickett, O.P.

Fr. Bruno Cadore, Master of the Order of Preachers, along with the Socius for Intellectual Life and the student brothers and novices of the Western Dominican Province. Thank you for making their vocations possible!