



FALL 2020

PRAEDICARE *to preach*

A Publication of the Dominican Central Province

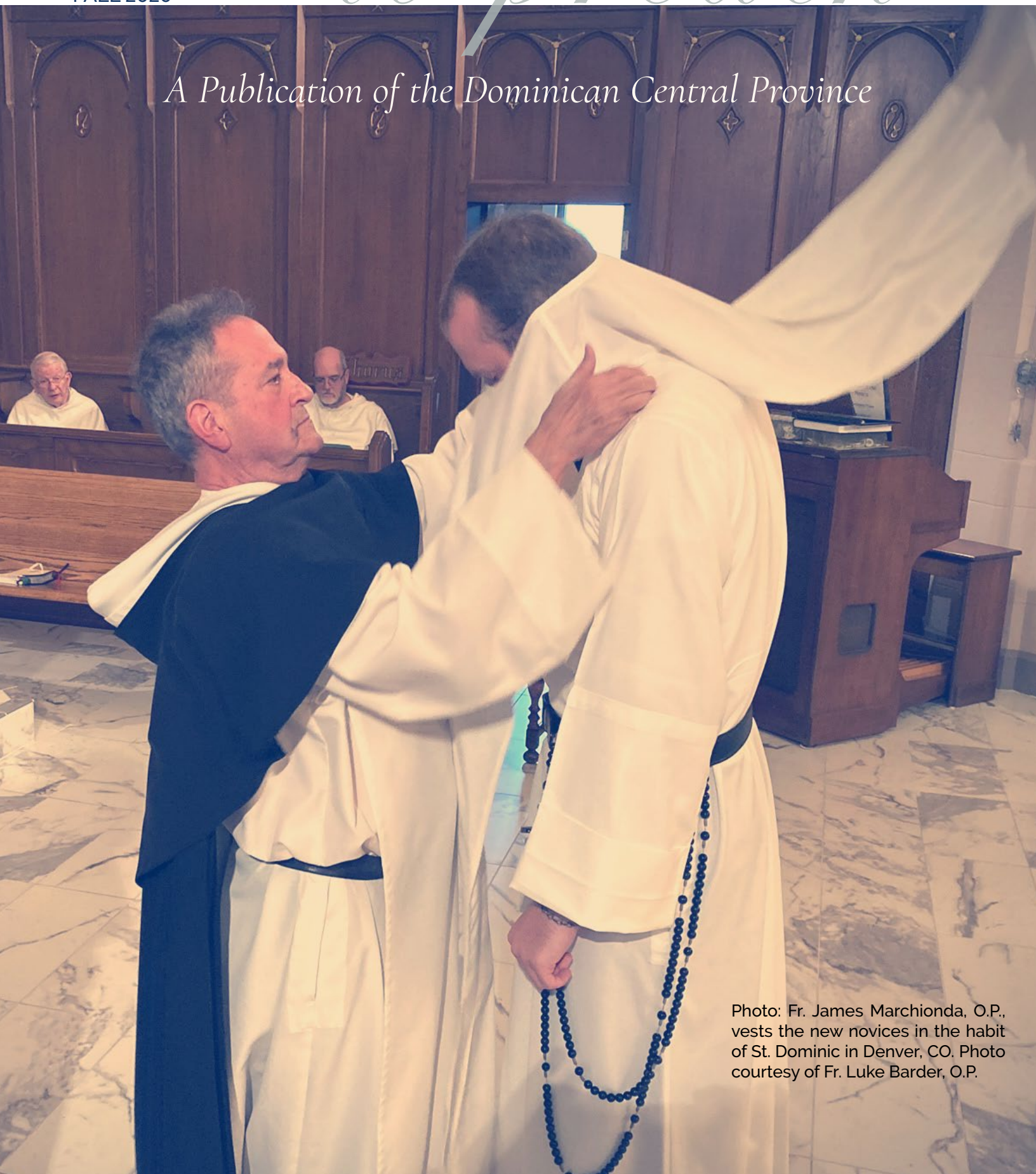


Photo: Fr. James Marchionda, O.P., vests the new novices in the habit of St. Dominic in Denver, CO. Photo courtesy of Fr. Luke Barder, O.P.



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First Profession



From the Provincial

Very Rev. James V. Marchionda, O.P.

Greetings, friends! The Dominican friars of the Province of St. Albert the Great thank you for partnering in our work. Your prayers, financial support, and affirming cards and letters sustain us in our many ministries.

No doubt, 2020 will be a year long-remembered. This issue of **PRAEDICARE** outlines some of the ways friars of the Province of St. Albert the Great have responded to its many challenges. My heartfelt hope and prayer is that this pandemic has led us all to a deeper awareness of the grace and peace of Jesus Christ in our lives and the lives of those whom we are so privileged to serve.

We have all had to face considerable trials, turmoil, disruptions, and health concerns. I heard from so many friends profoundly impacted by job losses, cancelled plans, and tragic stories of loved ones lost. We, too, had seven friars diagnosed with coronavirus. One is still recovering and in need of prayer. In addition to pandemic challenges, we also pray fervently for social justice in our country, that the sacred tenet of our Constitution of all people being created equal may be fully realized.

Alongside these many challenges, our priory/novitiate building project in Denver remains a top priority for us. We welcomed six young men into our novitiate in August. Dozens more have recently inquired about the Dominican charism and way of life. What a grace for our Province! Our new Promoter of Vocations, **Fr. Samuel Hakeem, O.P.**, is already doing an outstanding job introducing vocation prospects to the Dominican way of life. Our Office of Mission Advancement tells more in, "Build It and They Will Come."

Because of the pandemic, our preaching took on several new forms this year. From "A Word of Hope," at opcentral.org, to Zoom conferences, Facebook Live and YouTube live-streaming, friars adjusted creatively – just as you and thousands of others with whom we minister have done. Read more here and online at opcentral.org.

They say, "You can't tell a book by its cover," but **PRAEDICARE's** cover photo tells the beginning of a pretty exciting story. Our Province remains blessed by brothers who have made simple and solemn professions, brothers ordained to the diaconate and priesthood, as well as the addition of six novices in Denver. Talk about good news!

With particular delight I am pleased to announce that in May of this year our province assumed responsibility for the Dominican ministries in Puerto Rico, where Dominicans have served for centuries. We are thrilled to play a part in that legacy. I am personally excited about taking this giant step forward.

My friends, you receive **PRAEDICARE** because in some way you are part of our vision and our mission. Allow me to personally thank you for your partnership with us. We cannot do this without you. You are such a significant part of Gospel preaching.

The friars of the Dominican Province of St. Albert the Great pray each day for you and your loved ones. We seek your prayers as well. We are all in this together. May God continue to bless our oneness-of-heart.

Gratefully yours in St. Dominic,

Fr. James V. Marchionda, O.P.
Prior Provincial
Dominican Province of St. Albert the Great



Priestly Ordination of Fr. Chris Johnson, O.P. (right)



"Drive-In" Mass at St. Vincent Ferrer



Holy Cross Parish
Bayamon, Puerto Rico



Live-streaming Ceremonies



“BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME.”

Fr. Andrew Carl Wisdom, O.P. - *Vicar for the Office of Mission Advancement*

As witnesses to our Priory/Novitiate project taking shape in Denver over the past several months, the above paraphrase from the iconic film *Field of Dreams* comes to mind. The renovated, original building joined to a brand-new wing will soon encompass a novitiate for first-year discerners, aka novices, within a larger expanded priory for as many as ten professed friars. We hope to move in by February 2021.

The crowd of nearly 100 guests who gathered in the courtyard of the St. Dominic Parish Center in May of 2019 for the groundbreaking would certainly not recognize the progress. Construction crews, under the direction of Mortensen Construction Company, have gutted the original novitiate building to make room for its new configuration. They have added ventilation ducts to accommodate new HVAC and dry wall for rooms that were not there before. They have added a new roof to allow for air handling units. The “old” novitiate has taken on a fresh new look yet lost none of its simplicity. This facility will accommodate up to 12 novices.



Immediately contiguous to the novitiate, this same crew of skilled trades people has constructed a contemporary structure for traditional contemplation and community. Carefully constructing and connecting a basement and two-story structure to the original novitiate building into a space where once stood a small house, they have made steady progress since the first shovel in the ground last fall.



A large sheath disguises their work and, at the same time, restrains dust and toil from spilling out into neighboring property. This structure, supported by steel and stone, has come into shape according to a well-conceived calendar. Exterior walls and the steel-formed roof provide shelter as workers build out interior space to house senior friars, common spaces, offices, and guest rooms.

When completed, this long-awaited, essential space will form the lives of those who chose to explore Dominican religious life as well as those who are living out their calling as Dominicans.

We would be remiss were we not to call out and give thanks to those who have supported this effort by their gifts of cash and pledges. Some 150 benefactors have given from \$10 to over \$1.7 million to this project. Our gratitude shall remain forever as strong as the mortar in the bricks which hold up this structure. Moreover, their intention shall remain in the heart of the prayers of all who reside in that building.

As in all we do, the Dominicans rely upon the support of others. Please consider the role you can play in the future of the Dominican Province of St. Albert the Great by making a pledge or immediate gift to the construction of this Priory/Novitiate. For more information, please contact us in the Province Office of Mission Advancement.

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JOIN US IN DOMINICAN SPIRITUALITY

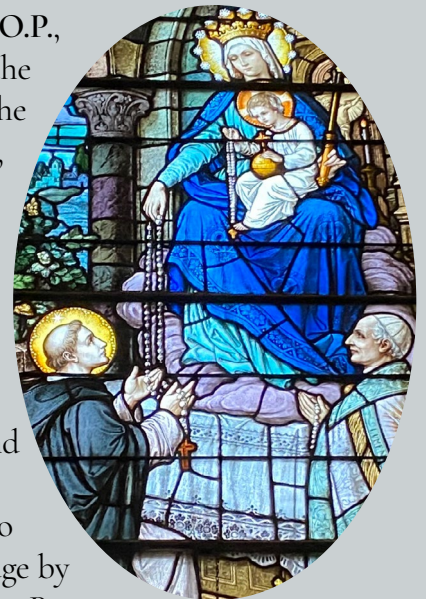
Fr. Cassian Sama, O.P.,

the Promoter for the
Confraternity of the
Most Holy Rosary,
welcomes all who
are interested in
growing in

holiness to join
this international
association that
exists “to praise and
honor the Blessed
Virgin Mary and to

secure her patronage by
the recitation of the Rosary

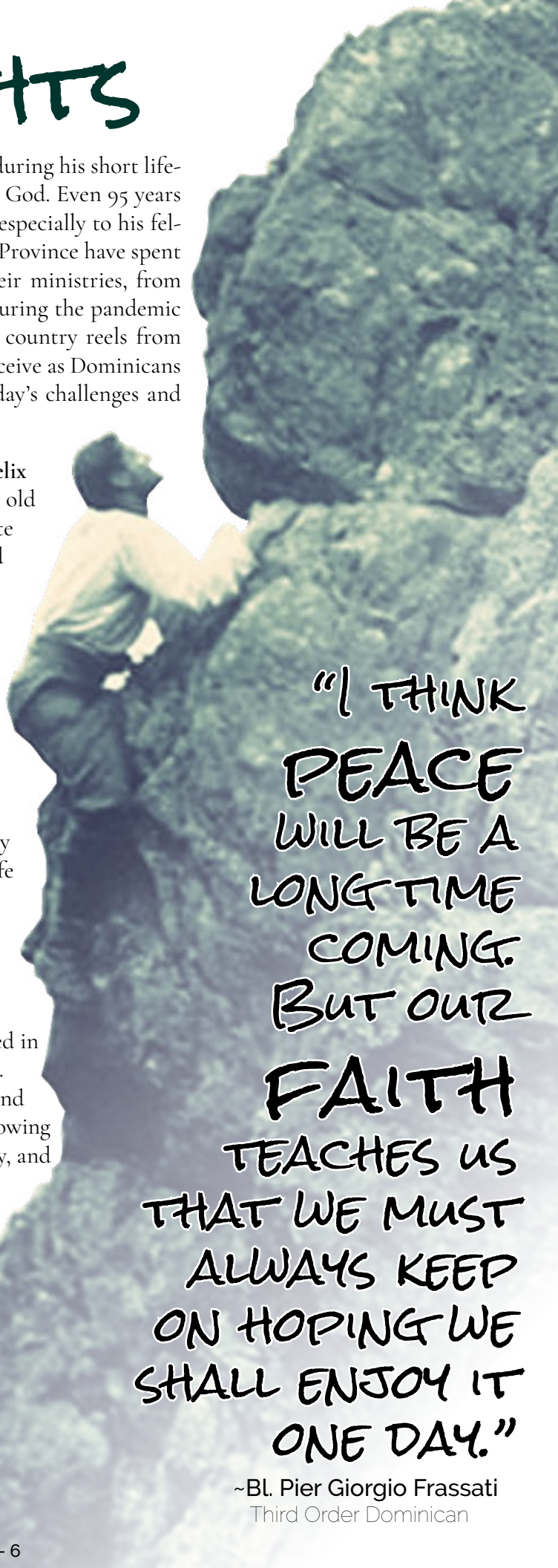
for the mutual spiritual benefit of all the
members throughout the world.” Members
of the Rosary Confraternity promise the
recitation of a weekly Rosary as their sole
obligation. To learn more about joining,
please visit www.maryscrown.org



TO THE HEIGHTS

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, a [Lay Dominican](#), modeled for us during his short life-time what it means to be Catholic and how to live one's life for God. Even 95 years after his death, Pier Giorgio's faithful messages resound loudly, especially to his fellow Dominicans. The Dominican Friars throughout the Central Province have spent most of 2020 working to meet new challenges they face in their ministries, from reaching parishioners through digital media for the first time during the pandemic to providing faith-based resources to local communities as the country reels from racial disparities and violence. The solid foundation our friars receive as Dominicans during their novitiate in Denver has allowed them to meet today's challenges and soar to the heights.

- At [St. Vincent Ferrer Parish](#) in River Forest, IL, Fr. Simon-Felix Michalski, O.P., and Fr. Raymond Bryce, O.P., have taken the old drive-in movies to the next level. On Sundays to accommodate parishioners' desire to attend Mass in a safely social distanced environment, the friars and staff at St. Vincent Ferrer began offering "drive in Mass" several times a week to bring their community back together for worship.
- As students at [Purdue University](#) returned for a school year filled with uncertainty, Fr. Brent Bowen, O.P., has continued in Fr. Patrick Baikauskas, O.P.'s work of [driving the priest-mobile](#), a golf cart fitted for confessions and general conversations between students and a priest on duty. This unconventional ministry allows friars to have greater visibility on campus to solicit genuine conversations about faith and life that might not otherwise happen.
- Back in March, as the pandemic began to affect us, Fr. Samuel Hakeem, O.P. at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Madison, WI received a call from a young adult parishioner. Sarah Christianson and Josh Bruecken were due to get married in May, surrounded by hundreds of family members and friends. Concerned that such a wedding would not be possible, Josh and Sarah asked if Fr. Samuel could preside at the wedding the following Saturday. The guest list was trimmed to just immediate family, and the ceremony was broadcast over Zoom to the hundreds who would have been in attendance. A surprise awaited the newlyweds following the wedding; they left the church to find dozens of their friends in cars for a drive-by reception. The parade circled Josh and Sarah in the parking lot, where they danced their first dance. The story was picked up by Katie Couric, and [you can watch the video by clicking the link here](#).

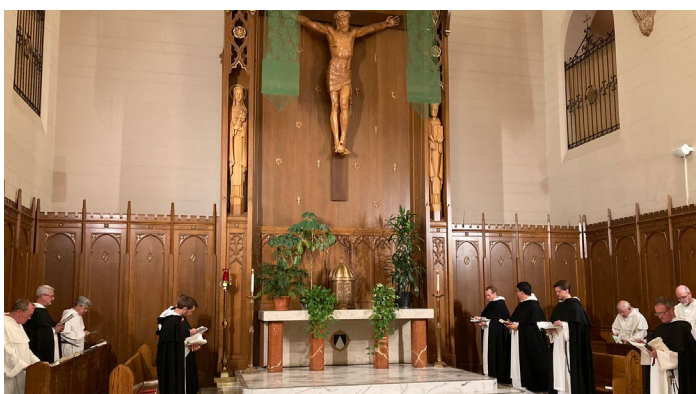


"I THINK
PEACE
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COMING.
BUT OUR
FAITH
TEACHES US
THAT WE MUST
ALWAYS KEEP
ON HOPING WE
SHALL ENJOY IT
ONE DAY."

~Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati
Third Order Dominican



DENVER MAKES ALL THIS POSSIBLE



WELCOMING SIX NOVICES

On Sunday, August 16, 2020, [six men received the Dominican habit](#) at [St. Dominic Church](#) in Denver, Colorado, marking the beginning of their novitiate for the Province of St. Albert the Great. The novitiate serves as a year for these men to pray, begin informal studies, and experience community life. Under the guidance of Fr. Dave Wright, O.P., our new Novice Master, they will continue their discernment.

FIRST PROFESSION OF VOWS

On Friday, August 7, 2020, the Vigil of the Solemnity of Holy Father Dominic, Br. Joseph Van Havermaet, O.P., made [Simple Profession](#), making the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience for two years. The ceremony took place within the context of evening prayer at St. Vincent Ferrer Church in River Forest, Illinois, and marks the next stage in formation, as Br. Joseph now begins his formal studies at [Aquinas Institute of Theology](#) in St. Louis, Missouri.



DIACONATE ORDINATIONS

[The friars at St. Dominic Priory](#) in St. Louis, Missouri were blessed to celebrate the diaconate ordinations of four brothers: Br. James Pierce Cavanaugh, O.P., Br. Ben Keller, O.P., Br. Adrian McCaffery, O.P., and Br. James Martin Nobles, O.P. (Southern Province). The new deacons served at various ministries during the summer and will finish up their final year of studies at Aquinas Institute in anticipation of ordination to the priesthood.





PREPARING TO MAKE VOWS FOR LIFE

Br. John Paul Peterson, O.P., will make Solemn Vows on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 4pm CDT at St. Pius V Parish in Chicago, Illinois. In professing solemn vows, a friar commits to living the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience as a Dominican Friar until his death. This life-long commitment to the Order marks the end of Br. John Paul's initial formation, as he is professing vows as a religious brother. He now looks forward to a life of ministry within the province. Join us for the [livestream of Br. John Paul's profession](#) here.

"THOU ART A PRIEST FOREVER"

Our Province joyfully celebrated the Ordination to the Priesthood of Fr. Christopher Johnson, O.P., on the Solemnity of St. Dominic, Saturday, August 8, 2020, at St. Vincent Ferrer Parish. Bishop Edward M. Rice of the Diocese of Cape Girardeau, MO ordained Fr. Chris, who now begins his first ministry as a theology teacher at [Fenwick High School](#) in Oak Park, Illinois.



THE SHRINE GOES ONLINE

Fr. Patrick Tobin, O.P., Director of the [Dominican Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus](#), has taken the Shrine's mission of hope to the internet during COVID-19 to reach those unable to attend the weekly St. Jude Rosary and Mass. Visit [the-Shrine.org](#) to take a virtual tour of the Shrine without leaving your computer! Visitors may still attend the Thursday 12pm and 6:30pm CDT Masses in person at St. Pius V Parish by signing up online in advance, or by watching the livestreamed video on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).



PUERTO RICO

In May, the centuries-old mission of the Dominican friars in Puerto Rico became part of the Province of St. Albert the Great. [Learn more here](#) about the newest members of our province.



A WORD OF HOPE

Developed in response to the ongoing pandemic and our common desire to find hope amid life's confusion, [A Word of Hope](#) delivers daily comfort from the words of Scripture.

ALWAYS GET THE LATEST NEWS AT OPCENTRAL.ORG

Visit our [website](#) for the latest news and preaching from around the Province of St. Albert the Great.

PRAEDICARE

Online Exclusive Content



“Dominicans have engaged the real world with a distinct spirituality summed up by St. Thomas Aquinas in that phrase I know rolls freely off the lips of everyone here:

***“Contemplari
et contemplata
aliis tradere.”***

As the Angelic Doctor observed, while the contemplative life is, absolutely speaking, more perfect than the active life, yet that form of active life which delivers to others the fruits of contemplation through preaching and teaching is in fact more perfect than the life that stops at contemplation, because such a life, built on an abundance of contemplation, was the very one chosen by Christ.”

Cardinal Blase Cupich
Dominican Friars 4th Annual Provincial's Dinner
Union League Club of Chicago
November 22, 2019

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 5TH ANNUAL PROVINCIAL'S DINNER!

Aware of COVID-19 restrictions, yet hoping to gather our dear friends and benefactors together, Fr. James V. Marchionda, O.P., is pleased to announce this year's Provincial's Dinner will take on an entirely new look. The 5th Annual Provincial's Dinner will gather folks from across the country and, perhaps, the globe, in a virtual affair to remember. Set aside Thursday evening, January 28th, bring together as many folks as is allowed in our socially distant world, turn on your laptop, iPad, or smart phone, and tune in. We will celebrate together, across the internet. Plans are in the making. Please continue to check opcentral.org in the weeks ahead for updates.



ALL SOULS DAY

We celebrate All Souls Day shortly following the feast day of St. Jude Thaddeus. In John's Gospel, Jesus tells us, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” (Jn 11:25-26); words of comfort to all who remember those gone before us marked with the sign of faith.

We invite you to send names of deceased loved ones you'd like the Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Albert the Great to hold in prayer during November, entrusting their souls to the Risen Christ. Check back soon at opcentral.org for more information.



*Eternal Rest
Grant unto Them,
O LORD.*

THE “COME AND SEE” MUST GO ON

Twice a year, the brothers in St. Louis host a joint Come and See discernment weekend for men looking to enter religious life for our Province or the Province of St. Martin de Porres. Despite many challenges to host in-person events due to COVID-19, the continual growth in interest surrounding religious life makes these discernment weekends all the more critical to have. Although we have had to decrease the number of attendees from 15 per province to 10, those spots had filled up with viable candidates as early as July. With the event taking place in late October, the Office of Vocations is giving priority spots to college seniors, graduate students, and those who have completed a four-year degree. For those who cannot attend the fall event, Fr. Samuel encourages them to consider the spring Come and See in mid-February.



Through God's grace and the hospitality of the friars in St. Louis, we are able to host our discerners using considerable safety precautions for these weekends. If you are considering Dominican life or know someone who is, contact Fr. Samuel Hakeem, O.P., at vocations@opcentral.org or sign up on the vocations website to [receive our newsletter](#).



DOMINICAN LAITY

We are excited to tell you how the Holy Spirit is active in our province. The Holy Spirit is busy at work calling lay women and men into the Dominican Order. It is a time of growth and renewal for our Lay Dominicans. What do we mean by the word “lay?” Lay members of the Catholic Church are ordinary members who are neither clergy nor recipients of Holy Orders nor profess vows in a religious order or congregation.

We say the Holy Spirit is calling new members into the Dominican Order. What do we mean by “into” the Dominican Order? Our lay members are Dominican; they are members of the Order. Yet at the same time, as lay members of the Church, our Lay Dominicans are not in the same state in life as the friars, nuns or active sisters. So Dominican, yes, but in a way unique to their lay state in life. Looking at the Rule of the Lay Fraternities of Saint Dominic, it proclaims, “some lay people, moved by the Holy Spirit to lead a life according to the spirit and charism of St Dominic, are incorporated into the Order by a special promise according to their own statutes.”

The Lay Dominicans are formed into Christian communities called chapters. Each of the various chapter communities are organized geographically as a province. Our Province of Saint Albert the Great contains over 20 chapters and a number of smaller groups. These members of the Lay Dominicans living within our province are members of the province, having Fr Gerard Timoner III, Master of the Order, and Fr Jimmy Marchionda O.P.,

Prior Provincial, as their legitimate superiors. The Lay Dominican rules and statutes are approved by the province locally and the Dominican curia globally and each Lay Dominican makes special promises, further strengthening their legitimate role within the Catholic Church and their incorporation into the Order.

Our Lay Dominicans enjoy a unique vocation path sharing in the Dominican charism. The Rule of the Lay Fraternities of Saint Dominic continues, “Lay Dominicans are therefore marked in a particular way both in their own spiritual life and in service of God and neighbor in the Church. As members of the Order, they participate in its apostolic mission through study, prayer and preaching, in accordance with their condition as lay people.”

Lay Dominicans are those lay members of the Church called to a vocation as a Dominican, legitimately organized and structured within the Order, who enjoy the fruits of their own unique spiritual path. It is a holy and beautiful way of life. How do we know that? Simply look at a list of the many Lay Dominicans declared saints: Saint Catherine of Siena, Saint Rose of Lima, Blessed Margaret of Costello, Saint Louis de Montfort, Saint Lorenzo Ruiz, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, among many others. We thank God for our Lay Dominicans and we thank the Holy Spirit for calling new lay vocations to our province.

If you are interested in becoming a Lay Dominican or finding a chapter near you, please contact Br. John Steilberg, O.P., Promoter of the Dominican Laity.

PRAEDICARE

A Publication of the Dominican Central Province



The Dominicans seek to ensure their future remains as bold and as promising as their past. We have secured gifts and pledges from 150 friends around the Province totaling some \$5.4 million of the \$8.5 million needed to build and endow this project. **Please support this essential, transformative project if you have not yet done so.** Thank you!


REACHING OUR FLOCK ONLINE

The Dominican Friars throughout the province have taken to social media and other online platforms to engage with parishioners at a distance. We are very blessed to have such advancements in technology to keep up with our flock during these turbulent times. Be sure to check out the links to our social media accounts, and follow, like, and share our pages and posts with your friends and family!

 [@opcentralfriars](#)

 [@opcentralfriars](#)

 [@opdomcentral](#)

 [YouTube](#)



Friarly is the shared digital ministry of the Provinces of St. Albert the Great and St. Martin de Porres, run by the student brothers at St. Dominic Priory in St. Louis, MO.



Dominican Province of St. Albert the Great, U.S.A.

PARISHES

Blessed Sacrament • Madison, WI
St. Albert the Great • Minneapolis, MN
St. Dominic • Denver, CO
St. Pius V • Chicago, IL
St. Vincent Ferrer • River Forest, IL

CAMPUS MINISTRY

St. Paul Catholic Center
Indiana University
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Center
Purdue University

NEW PROVINCE MINISTRY

Territory of Puerto Rico

EDUCATION/SPIRITUALITY

Aquinas Institute of Theology
St. Louis, MO
Dominican Ecclesial Institute
Albuquerque, NM
Fenwick High School • Oak Park, IL
Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus
Chicago, IL

www.opcentral.org