



FALL 2021

PRAEDICARE *to preach*

A Publication of the Dominican Province of St. Albert the Great



WELCOME HOME!

The Dominican Friars, Province of St. Albert the Great, joyfully announce the opening of St. Dominic Priory and Novitiate in Denver, Colorado. In this issue you will get a look inside our new home along with other exciting works taking place around the Province.



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LETTER FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dearest Family and Friends of the Dominicans,

How happy I am to share with you this newest edition of PRAEDICARE! What a year-and-a-half we have had since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Despite many months of great uncertainty over issues threatening our communal health and well-being, we present some extraordinary news in this issue of PRAEDICARE, sure signs of hope in the Province, which we pray will renew joy and hope in your hearts as well.

In this issue, you will see pictures of our recently-completed construction project in Denver, Colorado. How grateful to God we are to have finally moved into our beautiful, new Priory/Novitiate building. How grateful we are to YOU, who have helped us every step of the way to make this move possible. Know that we will pray for you every day in our new home.

In August, last year's five novices made their Simple (First) Professions, for two years. What a year they had, living in a guest house (thanks to the incredible generosity of the Little Sisters of the Poor), as they awaited the completion of our novitiate. Five holy, patient, kind, generous and dedicated young men survived a challenging year, made profession, and have moved to St. Louis, Missouri to begin graduate studies in philosophy and theology. We are so proud of them and humbly grateful for their membership in the Province.

That very same weekend, we received and vested five new

novices for this year's novitiate class (see them walking towards their new house on the cover!). What a joy-filled, hopeful weekend it was for the Province of St. Albert the Great. I ask you to please pray for them at the beginning of their novitiate year and for all our students in St. Louis.

In addition to Simple Profession and Vestition in Denver, two brothers made Solemn (Final) Profession here in Chicago on August 14. And, in May, three of our student brothers were ordained to the priesthood in St. Louis. The Lord seems to be smiling down upon the Province through the vocations of these fine young friars!

Puerto Rico continues to be a priority for us. Two friars from the mainland, Fr. Jim Spahn, O.P., from our province, and Fr. Greg Maturi, O.P., from the Eastern Province, have joined our brothers on the island. You'll see articles here in both English and Spanish. A friar from the Western Province plans to join the ministry in Puerto Rico in the new year, as well as a friar from the Canadian Province. There is great collaboration among the North American Provinces in Puerto Rico.

As you can imagine, there is much work to be done on the island following Hurricane Maria and subsequent, devastating earthquakes and aftershocks. How much more can these people endure? In our efforts to be of greater assistance, we have re-ignited the Saint Dominic Mission Society (SDMS) and appointed one of our seasoned missionary friars, Fr. Jerry Stookey, O.P., to

head-up the Society. You will hear from him in this issue and further down the road in various updates from both the Province and SDMS newsletters.

The Dominican Shrine of Saint Jude Thaddeus has stepped up boldly to the 21st Century in updating all aspects of the Shrine ministry. What a remarkable job our current Shrine co-directors, Frs. Patrick Tobin, O.P., and Mike Ford, O.P., have done in addressing today's prayer needs through modern technology. There are many new and innovative ways to participate in the spiritual ministries offered through the Shrine. I encourage you to take advantage of them.

Please note the deaths of two of our most esteemed brothers: Br. Stephen Lucas, O.P., who spent 57 years in our mission in Nigeria before returning to Chicago in 2016; and Fr. Chuck Leute, O.P., who dedicated most of the last 50 years of his priestly ministry to serving Native American communities in the Dakotas.

My friends, these are trying times, indeed. Who can deny it? Yet, for those of us who believe in God, our refuge and our strength, we keep on keeping-on! May the good news that our province is experiencing today inspire you. I thank you again, for your faith in us and for being our partners in this mission of the Holy Preaching.

Sincerely yours in Saint Dominic,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James V. Marchionda, O.P.' with a flourish at the end.

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

FORMING PREACHERS FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD

*Fr. Andrew Carl Wisdom, O.P., and Mr. Bob Dixon
Office of Mission Advancement*

“We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us.”

Attributed to Winston Churchill, this reflection underscores what we experience and feel as we take up residence in the new St. Dominic Priory in Denver, Colorado.

Formation in Dominican life requires a particular focus on prayer, study, and contemplation; not only to benefit ourselves but for the salvation of others. With the support and prayers of some 200 benefactors, friar communities, and friends of the Province of St. Albert the Great, we have done more than complete a building, as beautiful and functional as it appears. This project, two decades of dreaming and several years in the making, once again invites us to respond to God's call to witness the Gospel through the way we organize and live as members of the Order of Preachers.

We've captured some beautiful photos of St. Dominic Priory and Novitiate. We hope you are as pleased as we are. Join us as we publicly thank our construction partners in this project, Handprint Architecture and M. A. Mortenson, both of Denver. Their hard work and that of our suppliers and



(Back L-R) Br. Andrés María Trujillo, O.P.; Br. Jacob Mazur-Batistoni, O.P.; and Br. Bernard Wierdak, O.P.; (Middle L-R) Br. Augustine Culligan, O.P.; Br. Jon Wisnieski; Br. Reginald Erickson; and Br. Joseph Cullen Hilliker, O.P.; (Front L-R) Br. Ben Steary; Br. Thomas Sheridan; and Br. Ephrem Upart.

subcontractors came to conclusion in late July.

We also give a very special thank you to the Little Sisters of the Poor, who hosted our novitiate for the entire 2020-21 novitiate year, ironically, at their Mullen Home for the Aged. We are blessed in so many ways by our partnership with these holy women. And, we thank our local friars who tended to this project for many years while pursuing their own ministries, often under challenging living conditions.

These photos show the beautiful building which now houses St. Dominic Priory and Novitiate. Yet, we focus on the teaching, learning, prayer, and community which will occur inside its walls. What we will do here is what Dominicans throughout the world strive to do: form young friars living together with men who “walk the walk.”

Professed friars, who for decades had been housed a block away, and our novices now together under one roof share meals,



study in a beautiful library, enjoy recreation, and most importantly, pray in our renovated chapel.

Wisdom and experience joined by youthful vigor and perspective, often truncated over the past 40 years because of schedules and distance, are now freely exchanged under one roof and in our beautiful contemplative garden. This new and renovated property will lead to enhanced formation of novices, an improved communal experience for young and senior friars, and ultimately a more authentic, Christ-centered engagement with those whom they serve, especially in St. Dominic Parish and the Highlands neighborhood of Denver.

We confidently occupy this beautiful campus fully aware of

the designs and uses of these rehabilitated and new facilities. We trust that our new home will promote and sustain Dominican values for decades to come. It is our hope that St. Dominic Priory and Novitiate will renew our older, professed friars in their commitment to our preaching charism and inspire young men to consider our way of life and join in our mission.

In the end, we salute all who made this happen because of their generosity. We received gifts ranging from ten dollars to six- and seven-figure leadership commitments. While we might have expected these to have come from "local" benefactors, we gratefully acknowledge our faithful friends from across the Central Province who answered

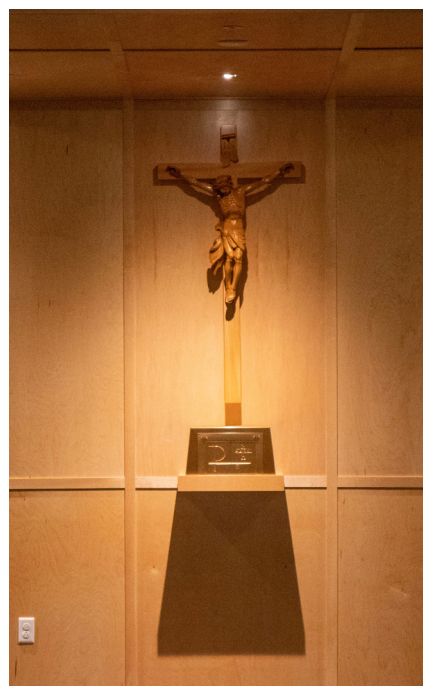
our requests for financial support. None of this would have come to fruition without them. We pray daily on their behalf in thanksgiving for their sacrifice and generosity.

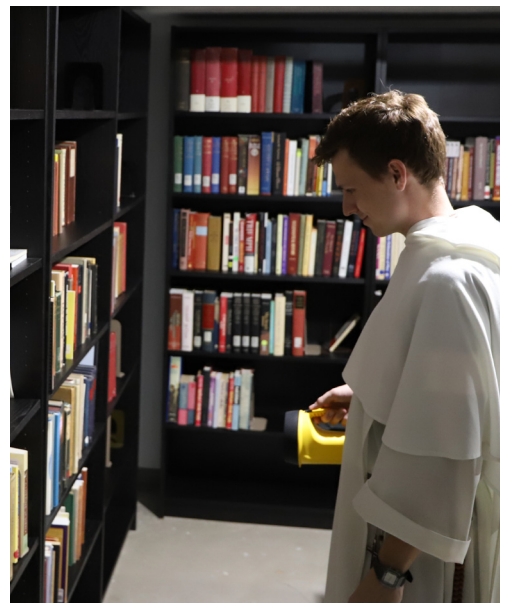
And, though we've now occupied this splendid new space, we invite others to consider a gift to help us fulfill the funding needed to complete this project. We're almost there but need your help. As you can see, we will put what you give to extraordinary use on behalf of the Church and the Holy Preaching.

*For more information
and to make a gift, contact
Fr. Andrew Carl Wisdom, O.P.,
or Mr. Bob Dixon in the
Office of Mission Advancement
at 312-243-0011*

WELCOME HOME

Join us for an inside look into our newly renovated Priory and Novitiate in Denver, Colorado





“THE ISLAND OF ENCHANTMENT” IS NOW PART OF OUR PROVINCE!

Fr. Yamil Samalot-Rivera, O.P., and Fr. Jim Spahn, O.P.

As many of you might know, Puerto Rico—“La Isla del Encanto”—has now become part of the Province of St. Albert the Great (ironically, the only land-locked U.S. province!). Even though Puerto Rico is new to our province, it has been home to Dominicans since 1510; and in 1521 Dominican friars built the island’s first convent (priory). Well-known and influential Dominican friars like Antonio de Montesinos and Bartolomé de las Casas lived and preached here.

The Dominican presence on the island includes not only friars, but active Dominican sisters (five different congregations), cloistered nuns, and a flourishing Dominican laity. There is even one member of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Dominic who is eager to grow the fraternity here among diocesan priests. Currently, we friars have several active ministries, mostly focused on the San Juan area (the capital in the north of the island), and Yauco (near Ponce in the south of the island). Yauco has been the victim of several earthquakes and devastating hurricanes in the past several years that did not affect the San Juan area with the same devastation.

In the north, we have several ministries in Bayamón, a suburb of San Juan. The UCB, Universidad Central de Bayamón (Bayamón Central University) is now the only university in our province run by Dominican friars. We also

work at Sacred Heart University. The parish, “Discovery of the Holy Cross” (Invención de la Santa Cruz), was founded in 1772 (before the U.S. was a country and the oldest parish in our province!) and is based in the very heart of Bayamón. Other ministries include the parishes St. Dominic of Guzman, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and the Shrine of St. Martin de Porres.

Yauco is home to the very spread-out parish of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. Several friars work there ministering to its eleven outlying chapels. As of now, Masses are held outside, and friars live in a rented house due to the earthquake’s damage to the church and house. The Dominican Sisters of Fatima, a Puerto Rican foundation, have accompanied the friars for many years and are a powerful presence in the area, faithfully serving the poorest of the poor in the outlying areas. Our university presence here is at Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico in Ponce.



Convento Nuestra Señora del Rosario

Historically, the Dominican friars and sisters have been a prophetic presence on the island, daring to truly minister to the poor in the face of opposition from those in power. We have continued to challenge injustice from the days of Antonio de Montesinos and Bartolomé de las Casas who helped form the basis of international human rights, especially for the indigenous.

Puerto Rico is a new mission for our province, which has successfully launched two former vicariates in Nigeria and Bolivia to become a Province and Vice-Province respectively. Our feet walk this island where Dominicans have trod since centuries before the establishment of the USA. Please support our efforts with your prayers and donations to the St. Dominic Mission Society, so we can continue our mission of preaching Jesus Christ to new and needy areas of the world.



(L to R) Fr. Yamil Samalot-Rivera, O.P.; Br. Peter Martyr Lewitzke, O.P.; Br. Greg Dunn, O.P.; Sr. Yelitza Ayala Gilot, O.P.; Br. Joseph Van Havermaet, O.P.; Br. John Steilberg, O.P.; Br. Carlos Alberto Rodríguez Villanueva, O.P.



in Bayamón, Puerto Rico

¡“LA ISLA DEL ENCANTO” ES AHORA PARTE DE NUESTRA PROVINCIA!

Como muchos de ustedes sabrán, Puerto Rico, “La Isla del Encanto”, ahora se ha convertido en parte de la Provincia de San Alberto Magno (irónicamente, ¡la única provincia estadounidense sin litoral!). Aunque Puerto Rico solo recientemente forma parte de nuestra Provincia, ha habido dominicos en la isla desde 1510; y en 1521 los frailes dominicos construyeron el primer convento de la isla. Aquí vivieron y predicaron frailes dominicos conocidos e influyentes, como Antonio de Montesinos y Bartolomé de las Casas.

La presencia dominica en la isla incluye no solo a frailes, sino también hermanas dominicas de vida activa (cinco congregaciones distintas), monjas de clausura y un floreciente laicado dominicano. Incluso hay un miembro de la Fraternidad Sacerdotal de Santo Domingo que está ansioso por hacer crecer la fraternidad aquí entre los sacerdotes diocesanos. Actualmente, los frailes tenemos varios ministerios activos, principalmente enfocados en la zona de San Juan (la capital en el norte de la isla) y Yauco (cerca de Ponce en el sur de la isla). Yauco ha sido víctima de varios terremotos y huracanes devastadores en los últimos años que no afectaron el área de San Juan con la misma devastación.

En el norte, tenemos varios ministerios en Bayamón, un suburbio de San Juan. La Universidad Central de Bayamón (UCB) es ahora la única universidad en nuestra provincia dirigida por frailes dominicos. También trabajamos en la Universidad del Sagrado Corazón. La parroquia Invencción de la Santa Cruz fue fundada en 1772 (¡antes de que Estados Unidos fuera un país y la parroquia más antigua de nuestra provincia!) y tiene su sede en el mismo corazón de Bayamón. Otros ministerios incluyen las parroquias de Santo Domingo de Guzmán, del Perpetuo Socorro, y el Santuario de San Martín de Porres.



(Izquierda) El fray Gerard Francisco P. Timoner, III, O.P., 88vo Maestro de la Orden de Predicadores, y (derecha) el fray José Santiago, O.P., Prior y Vicario del Provincial a Puerto Rico.

Yauco es el hogar de la muy extensa parroquia Nuestra Señora del Rosario. Varios frailes trabajan allí atendiendo sus once capillas periféricas. Por ahora, las Misas se llevan a cabo afuera y los frailes viven en una casa alquilada debido

a los daños causados a la iglesia y la casa por el terremoto. Las Hermanas Dominicas de Fátima, fundadas en Puerto Rico, han acompañado a los frailes durante muchos años y son una presencia potente en el área, sirviendo fielmente a los más pobres de los pobres en las áreas periféricas. También tenemos una presencia universitaria en la Pontificia Universidad Católica de Puerto Rico en Ponce.

Históricamente, los frailes y hermanas han sido una presencia profética en la isla, atreviéndose a servir realmente a los pobres ante la oposición de aquellos en el poder. Hemos continuado desafiando la injusticia desde los días de Antonio de Montesinos y Bartolomé de las Casas, quienes ayudaron a establecer los derechos humanos internacionales, especialmente para los indígenas.

Puerto Rico es una nueva misión para nuestra provincia que ya ha fundado con éxito dos misiones en Nigeria y Bolivia donde nuestros antiguos vicariatos se han convertido ahora en Provincia y Viceprovincia respectivamente. Nuestros pies caminan por esta isla donde los dominicos han pisado desde hace siglos antes del establecimiento de los EE. UU. Por favor, apoye nuestros esfuerzos con sus oraciones y donaciones a la Sociedad Misionera de Santo Domingo, para que podamos continuar nuestra misión de predicar a Jesucristo en áreas nuevas y necesitadas del mundo.

GOD IS AT WORK AROUND THE PROVINCE

*From professing Simple Vows to being ordained to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ,
God is working miracles in the lives of our friars*



(Back row, L to R) Fr. Dave Wright, O.P.; Br. Jon Wisnieski; Br. Reginald Erickson; Fr. Louis Morrone, O.P.; (Front row, L to R) Fr. James Marchionda, O.P.; Br. Ben Steary; Br. Thomas Sheridan; and Br. Ephrem Upart.

FIVE MEN RECEIVE THE HABIT OF ST. DOMINIC

On Sunday, August 8, 2021, five men received the Dominican habit at St. Dominic Church in Denver, Colorado. Br. Reginald Erickson, Br. Thomas Sheridan, Br. Benjamin Steary, Br. Ephrem Upart, and Br. Jon Wisnieski will “try on” life as Dominican friars in the newly-built novitiate, by growing in prayer, experiencing community life, and starting informal studies for the next year. Fr. Dave Wright, O.P., our Novice Master, and the senior community will continue to guide and support these men in the early stage of their Dominican formation.

PROFESSION OF SIMPLE VOWS

On Saturday, August 7, 2021, Br. Augustine Culligan, O.P.; Br. Joseph Cullen Hilliker, O.P.; Br. Jacob Mazur-Batistoni, O.P.; Br. Andrés María Trujillo, O.P.; and Br. Bernard Wierdak, O.P.; professed their first vows—poverty, chastity, and obedience—with the Order of Preachers for two years. The brothers have since moved to St. Louis, Missouri to begin graduate studies at Aquinas Institute of Theology.



(Above L to R) Br. Augustine Culligan, O.P.; Br. Andrés María Trujillo, O.P.; Br. Jacob Mazur-Batistoni, O.P.; Br. Bernard Wierdak, O.P.; and Br. Joseph Cullen Hilliker, O.P.



Do you hear God’s call to Dominican life? The Order of Preachers has several options for membership, such as becoming a priest or religious brother, sister, or nun; joining the Dominican Laity; or becoming a member of the Priestly Fraternities of St. Dominic. To learn more about these various opportunities for discernment with the Dominican Order, please visit <https://www.opcentral.org/resources/affiliated-groups> and www.opvocations.org.



(Above L to R) Br. Jordan DeGuire, O.P., and Br. Peter Martyr Lewitzke, O.P., at St. Vincent Ferrer Church in River Forest, Illinois for their Solemn Vows.
 (Right) The solemnly-professed brothers participate in the *embrazo*, a Dominican tradition.

PROFESSION OF SOLEMN VOWS

Please pray for our newest Dominicans for life, Br. Jordan DeGuire, O.P., and Br. Peter Martyr Lewitzke, O.P., who professed their solemn vows on Saturday, August 14, 2021 at St. Vincent Ferrer in River Forest, Illinois.

These friars have returned to Aquinas Institute of Theology to finish their graduate degrees.



THREE FRIARS ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD

The Province joyfully celebrated the Ordination of three men to the priesthood on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at St. Pius V Catholic Church in St. Louis, Missouri. Archbishop Robert Carlson ordained Fr. James Pierce Cavanaugh, O.P.; Fr. Benjamin Keller, O.P.; and Fr. Adrian McCaffery, O.P., who have begun their new ministries.

Fr. James Pierce became the Parochial Vicar at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Madison, Wisconsin; and Fr. Ben is the new Parochial Vicar at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Center at Purdue University. Fr. Adrian is continuing his graduate studies, working on his Ph.D. at Saint Louis University.



(Upper Left) Fr. James Pierce Cavanaugh, O.P., blesses Archbishop Robert Carlson; (Upper Middle) Fr. Ben Keller, O.P., blesses his two nephews; (Upper Right) Fr. Michael Mascari, O.P., lays hands on Fr. Adrian McCaffery, O.P.; (Lower L to R) Fr. Ben Keller, O.P.; Fr. Adrian McCaffery, O.P.; and Fr. James Pierce Cavanaugh, O.P.



FAITH AND TECHNOLOGY AT THE DOMINICAN SHRINE OF ST. JUDE

Fr. Patrick Tobin, O.P.

Imagine, for a moment, that you are back in 2005. *Dexter* was a breakout hit on Showtime. *The Office*, *Supernatural*, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, *How I Met Your Mother*, *Colbert Report*, and *Dr. Who* were in their first season on regular TV. Cell phones were flip phones as smart phones did not yet exist. You still paid for long distance telephone calls. America Online gave away CD-ROMs with free minutes of dial-up internet. And most personal computers ran on Microsoft XP. Only 5% of adults used a social media platform (Facebook, YouTube, etc...).

Fast forward to 2021. Who cares about what's on TV now that there is a plethora of streaming services! The iPhone is up to version 12. What's long distance? America

Online is now AOL, and dial-up isn't really a thing anymore. Microsoft is up to version 10. And 72% of adults use at least one social media platform!

That's right! Nearly three out of every four adults are regularly using an online media platform and this includes the 65+ crowd. In fact, more people get their news from an electronic device than from TV and print sources combined. There has been nothing less than a seismic shift in how we navigate our daily lives due to the practically ubiquitous use of electronic devices and the internet. And our faith lives are not exempt from this trend. In fact, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Catholic Church has relied upon technology more than

ever before to connect with and support her members while under lockdowns and various levels of social restrictions throughout the country.

Since 2018, the Dominican Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus has embarked on a journey to encounter its patrons in this brave new digital and technological world. Whereas most prayer requests used to come by the post office, now the majority come through our prayer line service or one of our digital platforms. In fact, the prayer line service has been so successful that it is undergoing a complete overhaul to move it toward a cloud-based service that allows the priests to access the prayer requests via their smart devices! And speaking of prayer intentions,



(Page 12) How we make the magic of the livestream happen every Thursday on Facebook and YouTube for our Shrine supporters to join us from around the world. You'll notice the scaffolding, which is part of the renovation taking place at St. Pius V Parish in Chicago, Illinois. (Page 13, Upper left) Close-up of candles with electronic tags; (Upper right) Novena in a box. To light a candle, visit www.candle.the-shrine.org.



we now have the capability of accepting prayer requests through the Shrine website that appear before a lit candle within the physical confines of the Shrine thanks to the miracle of wireless technology and electronic paper. Social media? We are active on Facebook and a new YouTube channel. Do you want to become a member of the Shrine community? No problem!

Just text Thaddeus to 84576, follow the instructions, and you become a digital member of the Shrine community. As a digital member you can communicate to us by email and text message as well as decide what content you want from the Shrine and how often you want it.

And let's not forget livestreaming! In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we now make available our weekly perpetual novena services in real time via Facebook and YouTube. Folks have caught on, and we now regularly receive prayer intentions in the comments during the service! Can't make it to Chicago for the annual Solemn Novena this year? No problem! We will broadcast it live every night (October 20-28). And guess what? You can order a "Novena-In-A-Box" through the Shrine website to receive everything you need to actively participate in the Solemn Novena. Don't just sit and watch.

Be an active participant with the rosary, prayer booklet, and St. Jude oil included in every kit.

From the obvious uses of technology such as our website, social media channels, live streams, and digital membership to the not-so-obvious uses, such as our prayer line service or our use of Google Maps to update our hours or integrating our website with a shipping service to not only expedite our packages to you but also include a tracking number... the Shrine has continued to fulfill her duty of intercessory prayer in new and innovative ways through the use of technology.



In Memoriam

Br. Stephen Lucas, O.P.



Brother Stephen Lucas passed away on July 7, 2021, at Resurrection Village Life Center in Chicago. He was 89 years old. Brother Stephen was born Donald Floyd Lucas in Racine, Wisconsin, the son of Walter and Marcella Lucas. He is survived by his sister, Virginia (Norm) Chester, of Fort Meyers Beach, Florida.

Brother Stephen entered the Dominican Order in 1953, and after two years each in Dubuque, Chicago, and Albuquerque, he was assigned to the missions in Nigeria. Br. Stephen was sad to be leaving Albuquerque, an assignment which he loved; however, his love of Albuquerque did not impede his commitment to missionary work.

He spent 57 years helping grow the Church in that country, all of them at St. Dominic's Church in Yaba, Lagos, where he soon established the St. Jude Apostolate, a national prayer fellowship. Described as a silent worker, he went on to build clinics for the poor in various locations around

the Lagos metropolitan area in addition to a primary and secondary school near the international airport and a large bookstore on the church property in Yaba. He was instrumental in opening Catholic churches in Makoko and Tarkwa Bay. Besides his

human skills of gentleness and compassion, he was an early and an energetic fund raiser of the Dominican formation program for young West African friars in Ibadan, Nigeria. He returned to the U.S. in 2016.



Br. Stephen's fellow missionaries, friars, and friends from the Province of St. Joseph the Worker gather at his funeral Mass to celebrate his life and legacy.

A MISSIONARY SPIRIT

Fr. Jerry Stookey, O.P., and Mr. Bob Dixon



Fr. Jerry Stookey, O.P., in Nicaragua in 1987.

The St. Dominic Mission Society, or SDMS, supports missionary work in the Dominican Province of St. Albert the Great, providing financial assistance to friars of the province serving in under-resourced communities and funds for infrastructure, such as churches, priories, church halls, etc., where financial support is scarce. This has taken friars outside the geographic boundaries of the province and United States in the past.

Dominicans from the province arrived in Nigeria in 1951, only twelve years following the founding of the province. Friars missioned to Bolivia followed shortly thereafter. Through the generosity of donors to SDMS, the tireless efforts of countless Dominican friars over 40+ years, and the work of the Holy Spirit, what began as missionary work in Nigeria became an independent province of native born Nigerian Dominican friars in 1993. Bolivia, once home to both American and

German Dominican missions, took longer to identify local vocations and merge those distinct missions, yet it became a Vice-Province in 2013.

Following discernment, the Province of St. Albert the Great once again accepted the invitation to mission ministry, this time on the island of Puerto Rico, where Dominican friars have served since 1523. The Province of St. Albert the Great has welcomed into its ranks friars already present and ministering in Puerto Rico as well as missioned others who had been serving elsewhere. A succession of recent natural disasters has brought immense challenges to the people of Puerto Rico. Hurricanes bookended by earthquakes damaged most of the infrastructure of the island, including that of existing Dominican ministries.

PRAEDICARE recently interviewed Fr. Jerry Stookey O.P., Director of the St. Dominic Mission Society,

to learn more about this role. Fr. Jerry has been a friar since 1974. Among his assignments, he ministered in Nicaragua for 6 years during a time of war and which he calls a favorite time of his life, as well as more recently in Cuba for a challenging but fascinating 3 years. Father also promoted the missionary work of the entire Dominican Order working for the Master of the Order for 8 years. In that capacity, he lived in Rome in an international community and traveled to Dominican missions in dozens of countries. Here's a bit of what Fr. Stookey shared.

PRAEDICARE: How did you encounter your love of missionary work?

I grew up in the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois, where they established a foreign mission in Guatemala when I was young. Eventually, dozens of parishes in the diocese created sister relationships with parishes in Guatemala. As a result, I spent a summer volunteering in Guatemala during high school. While attending the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, I returned to Guatemala for another summer in the missions, only confirming my missionary vocation. In fact, inspired by the people I met in Guatemala I seriously thought of becoming a priest, hoping someday I might also be a missionary!

In what ways do you seek assistance for SDMS?

As an itinerant Dominican, I have begun hitting the road on

behalf of our ministries in places where resources—both financial and personnel—are scarce, yet faith-filled people yearn for the Eucharist and the Gospel. In the case of our province, the most urgent needs of this sort are currently in Puerto Rico. About a dozen of my brothers currently serve in several ministries there. As you might imagine, the challenges are great. Fathers Samalot-Rivera and Spahn describe their work earlier in **PRAEDICARE**. As for me and on their behalf, I write to benefactors and preach in parishes telling our story.

As we know, Jesus sent his disciples out two by two. It is my hope that those who hear our story, either in writing or in person, will in some very concrete way join with Dominicans in service of the Gospel and the

people who so desperately seek the Bread of Life and to hear the Word. Frankly, we rely on others to help and they do, thanks be to God. Or as we might say in Puerto Rico, “Gracias a Dios!”

Any final thoughts?

Fr. Stookey: It is truly with great joy and thanks I now serve as director of the St. Dominic Mission Society. I ask for your

prayers, for they are certainly needed. And, if you can help us begin yet another missionary effort, your financial support will go a long way. Join me as I seek to help our Dominican friars serving in Puerto Rico. I look forward to sharing their stories with you in the months and years ahead. Let’s be part of the missions together.



Daily Mass at the chapel inside Our Lady of the Rosary Priory in Puerto Rico.

In Memoriam

Fr. Charles Leute, O.P.



Charles Joseph Leute was born in Dubuque, Iowa on February 21, 1942, the son of Charles Edward and Agatha Lucy Frommelt Leute. He was one of six children. Chuck, as he was known by all his Dominican brothers, was a descendent through his father of the Sauk and Fox Native American Indians who lived in the Mississippi River area around eastern Iowa. Though raised in urban America, his

Native American roots led him to “missionary work” among the poor rural Indian people on reservations in South and North Dakota.

He made first profession on August 31, 1963. He completed his initial formation at Aquinas Institute of Theology in Dubuque, Iowa and was ordained to the priesthood on May 24, 1969 in the chapel of St. Rose Priory in Dubuque.

Father Chuck devoted most of his ministerial life to the Native American people on the Northern plains of the United States. Beginning in 1970, he served the Oglala Lakota Indians at Our Lady of Lourdes Mission in Porcupine and then at Sacred Heart Church in

Pine Ridge both on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. In 1986 Father Chuck became associate pastor at Holy Rosary Church in Minneapolis, but in 1987 he then moved to the northeastern edge of North Dakota to become the pastor of Our Lady of Seven Dolours Church, Fort Totten, on the Spirit Lake Reservation and to minister to the Pabaksa, Sisseton and Wahpeton bands of the Devils Lake Sioux tribe. He was assigned there until his death in 2020.

Late in 2020, Father Chuck sought medical treatment for a stomach disorder at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, south of Minneapolis and was diagnosed with advanced stomach cancer. As his condition worsened, he was

moved to Our Lady of Peace Hospice Center in St. Paul where he died peacefully on January 1, 2021, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. How fitting, given Fr. Chuck’s profound devotion to Our Lady.

Father Leute was a member of the National Association of Native Religious, religious men and women of native American ancestry. Chuck loved the people he served all his life, and he loved the land where he lived. He enjoyed singing, hiking, gardening and ranching: actually, most anything that had to do with being outdoors.



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

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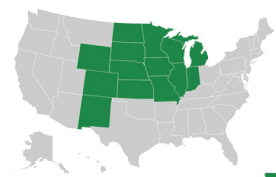
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UPCOMING EVENTS

SHRINE OF ST. JUDE NOVENA OCT. 20-28, 2021

Please join the Shrine for our traditional St. Jude Novena at St. Pius V starting at 7pm each evening on Wednesday, October 20th. With COVID-19 precautions in place and because many of our wonderful supporters do not live in the Chicago area, we will be making it a little easier to join us both online and in person! In the past we only did St. Jude oil blessing on the apostle's feast day. This year, we'll be having oil blessings on Friday, October 22; Monday October 25; and the feast day, Thursday, October 28. Learn more by visiting www.the-Shrine.org.

COME & SEE DISCERNMENT WEEKEND OCT. 22-24, 2021

In the Gospel of John, when Jesus meets his first disciples he asks them "What are you looking for?" They wanted to know where he was staying, so Jesus replied "Come and See." He then invited them to stay with him for a brief time, but it was enough for them to know that they were going to give up everything and follow him. A Come & See weekend is a must for anyone seriously discerning their vocation; it's a 64-hour immersion experience into the very rhythm of religious life. These weekends provide that "gut" experience which offers the visceral clarity that is the goal of discernment and the only true test of whether or not your home is here. Contact Fr. Samuel Hakeem, O.P. at vocations@opcentral.org to learn more about reserving your spot.

The Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Albert the Great proudly continue to serve a wide community through our preaching and teaching, which has expanded over the past year to include a growing online audience. While we continued to produce our weekly *Know Before You Go* video series, which focuses on Sunday's readings, we began the daily *A Word of Hope* series to lift you up with God's message during these challenging times.

If you don't currently receive our emails with the daily and weekly preaching, please visit our website to sign up. We also share our preaching and other exciting news regularly on our Facebook and other social media platforms, so make sure to "like" and follow us on our different accounts to stay up to date with us.

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