

Praedicare

Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt Preaching Newsletter

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Spotlight on Preacher Education

This issue of Praedicare highlights some examples of the ways in which we are being renewed in our preaching and helping to prepare a new generation of preachers.

The Many Faces of Preaching

In 1206, Dominic began his mission of preaching in Fanjeaux, France. Today, Fanjeaux is a place visited by many Dominicans. This past summer, Sisters Kathy O'Hanlon and Miriam Catherine Nevins participated in a retreat there, while Kathleen Hinge participated in the Fanjeaux study program for Dominican colleges.

In June, I participated in the Fanjeaux retreat, "Rekindling the Vision of Dominic."



Sister Kathy O'Hanlon, OP

It was an incredible experience; it renewed my appreciation of my identity as a Dominican woman.

Praying with Dominic in the very place where he preached was powerful! His spirituality "spoke to me," and the spirit of Dominic became more real to me.

Le Signadou is a beautiful spot in Fanjeaux where one can imagine Dominic overlooking the dazzling fields of southern France - the area where many embraced the

Albigensian heresy. Dominic saw the evils of this heresy and saw beyond to what could be, and the good news of the Gospel.

Dominic could look beyond to see what could be because he was a man of prayer. His life was rooted in the Word of God; it is said he talked only to God or about God. His contemplative spirituality nurtured him as a man of joy, study, truth and mercy. He was authentic; what he said and what he did were consistent. He was accessible to other people and interested in their lives as reflected in the many stories of his compassion to others. Dominic was truly a mendicant; letting go, listening to God and moving forward were marks of this man of faith. Dominic's great trust and hope in God filled him with courage and zeal as he preached the Gospel and formed a community of preachers to combat the heresy of his day.

Touching into my Dominican roots rekindled Dominic's spirit within me and challenged me to treasure and embody his spirit in my daily life as a woman in the Order of Preachers.

Sister Kathy O'Hanlon, OP

Meister Eckhart said, "We can only preach what has been born within us." I can apply these words to a new awareness of history that has been born in me since I walked the streets of Fanjeaux. We live in such a busy, noisy environment that to experience the quiet of an agrarian society where there are few cars, where people walk to a store, where

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The Many Faces of Preaching, cont'd

children play quietly and one can appreciate the rising and the setting of the sun with few structures to obstruct the view was truly food for my soul.

Going from place to place in Fanjeaux, we walked on cobblestones which have been walked upon for centuries. We prayed in spaces where Dominic prayed when he served the people of this region. The beauty of the simplicity seemed to resonate as we prayed in sacred spaces devoid of ornament. Several times during the retreat, we were reminded to travel lightly, but to be fully aware that we are on a journey.



Sister Miriam Catherine Nevins, OP

A particular joy of the trip was becoming acquainted with Dominicans from different congregations. The truth that we are more alike than different was evident when we came together to pray; we easily followed the format that is ever ancient ever new. In Toulouse, we visited what had been a Dominican Church before the French Revolution and is still the place where the reliquary containing the head of St. Thomas Aquinas rests; forty voices sang six verses of the "Pange Lingua" and here the vastness of the space, the simplicity of adornment, the richness of history, and the beauty and unity of our Faith exploded in my soul, and I have been renewed.

Sister Miriam Catherine Nevins, OP



Each summer, faculty, students and staff from Dominican colleges and universities throughout the United States gather in France for the Fanjeaux Seminar. I attended this summer under the sponsorship of Dominican College of Blauvelt, where I am now in my fourth year as assistant professor of physics and mathematics. The Seminar features two weeks in Fanjeaux, learning about St. Dominic in the land where the Order of Preachers began. The region

is positively beautiful, the food delicious and the company of like-minded educators stimulating, but learning about St. Dominic's vision while walking in his footsteps was truly inspiring.

Learning about St. Dominic's vision put the day-to-day work that I do in greater context. I now see why Dominican College "fosters the active, shared pursuit of truth." This is not just mission statement fluff; it dates back to the work and vision of Dominic himself. As a physics professor, I work every day in the pursuit of truth. It would be easy to assume as I teach that I know the truth and my students do not. Now I see that the pursuit of truth is richer and will be more successful for everyone if it is shared. This has brought greater focus to the way I teach. I have much more interest in helping students discover physical laws than memorize them. Their challenges and questions challenge me and, like Dominic and the Innkeeper after the argument, we are both changed for the better. I sincerely hope that my teaching will continued to be inspired by this.

Kathleen Conlon Hinge, Ph.D.

The essential mission of those religious undertaking apostolic works is the proclaiming of the word of God to those whom he places along their path, so as to lead them towards faith.

Essential Elements, Sacred Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes, 1983



"Le Signadou," Fanjeaux, France



Preaching with Young Adults

The High School Preaching Conference



Sister Gertrude Simpson, OP with two past conference participants

Each year when the students return from the preaching event at Adrian, they are filled with the Dominican ideals of prayer, study, preaching, and service. As a result of the Preaching Conference, they participate in various forms of prayer including liturgical dance. In addition, each Friday one student gives a

reflection on the Sunday scripture readings. Social justice issues have come alive for the students and they bring this awareness back to St. Raymond’s Academy.

The challenge each September is to enable the students to use their leadership skills to enrich the school community with their new skills and insights.

I have become much more aware of the 4 pillars of Dominican life and am very grateful for the contributions these students have made to St. Raymond’s. The High School Preaching event has been a blessing for all of us.

Sr. Gertrude Simpson, St. Raymond’s Academy



The College Preaching Conference

Preaching is not just a charism of Sisters and Associates. In a time when people may wonder about the future of religious life, there is great hope in the fact that young adults are being imbued with the charism of preaching in a variety of ways. One of these ways is the National College Preaching in Action Conference, which was held in Blauvelt this past May. Dominican Colleges from across the country sent students and mentors to be formed in the charism of preaching. They learned about Dominican saints, and the ways in which they preached – in a specific time

and place. They experienced preaching through service to the needy during a day of immersion at sites in the Bronx, Rockland County or Goshen. They learned about preaching justice through being aware of emerging theologies, signs of the times, and the Dominican presence at the United Nations. They experienced preaching through workshops on art, music, dance, acting and pulpit preaching. Throughout the week, they prepared prayer services and preached through word and action. Mentor and Dominican College faculty member AnnMarie DiSiena comments, “I’ve noticed student growth. They have grown in introspection and are asking questions. The students are exposed -- they have a new awareness of the Dominican Sisters and Dominican Order.”

Barry Reinholz, a previous student participant who attended as a mentor this year remarks, “The Preaching in Action Conference has allowed me to experience different ways that we can live preaching in our life. Dominican life in and of itself was something that I was not acquainted with until I got to attend the conference.” Barry, a gifted pulpit preacher himself, preached at the closing liturgy of the conference, during which, each student participant committed to living out the preaching charism on their own campuses.



Mentors AnnMarie DiSiena and Sr. Barbara McEneany, OP with students from Dominican College



The International Dominican Youth Movement

125 people; 25 countries; countless languages; lay, ordained, and vowed. This is just one way to paint a

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Preaching Resources Corner

The Shape of the Church to Come

Timothy Radcliffe, OP

“America: The National Catholic Weekly,” April 13, 2009

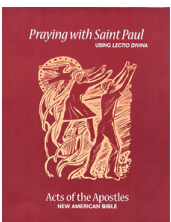
An article about preaching as necessarily being dialogical



Praying With Saint Paul Using Lectio Divina: Acts of the Apostles

Paulist Press, June 1, 2009

“An inspirational way to practice lectio divina through the person of St. Paul...”



The World On Campus

Catholic Relief Services and Renew International, www.renewintl.org

A resource for college students that integrates Scripture and issues of justice.



Below: The U.S. Delegation to the IDYM Assembly at Monastery Batalha.



Above: Young adults from Africa and Portugal prepare for morning prayer.

Preaching with Young Adults, cont'd

picture of the participants in the International Dominican Youth Movement (IDYM) Assembly held in Fatima, Portugal this past summer.

Another picture of the gathering is that of an inter-generational group: young adults coming to learn from and share their experiences of being preachers with vowed and lay members of the Order of Preachers, all part of what we call the Dominican Family.

A third picture is that of a prayerful group. Whether it was in a multi-lingual candlelight rosary procession around the square in front of the Basilica in Fatima; Portuguese and African men and women dancing the Book of the Gospels into the Church for Liturgy, accompanied by drumming and singing; an Indonesian sung version of the Magnificat; or a mariachi-style rendition of the song, “Domingo, tu voz en America,” (Dominic, your voice in America) prayer was an essential part of the gathering.

There was a strong sense of being “family” and that, no matter what, the mission of Preaching the Good News will be continued throughout the world -- carried out by these young adults.

Jenn Schaaf, Director of Communications



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Contributors: Mary Ann Collins, OP; Barbara Ann Sgro, OP; Miriam Catherine Nevins, OP; Kathy O’Hanlon, OP; Gertrude Simpson, OP; Jenn Schaaf, Director of Communications

Design: Joan Smith, OP

Praedicare: Sisters and Associates Preaching the Just Word Together