

Official Publication of the Dominican Foundation



# BLACKFRIARS

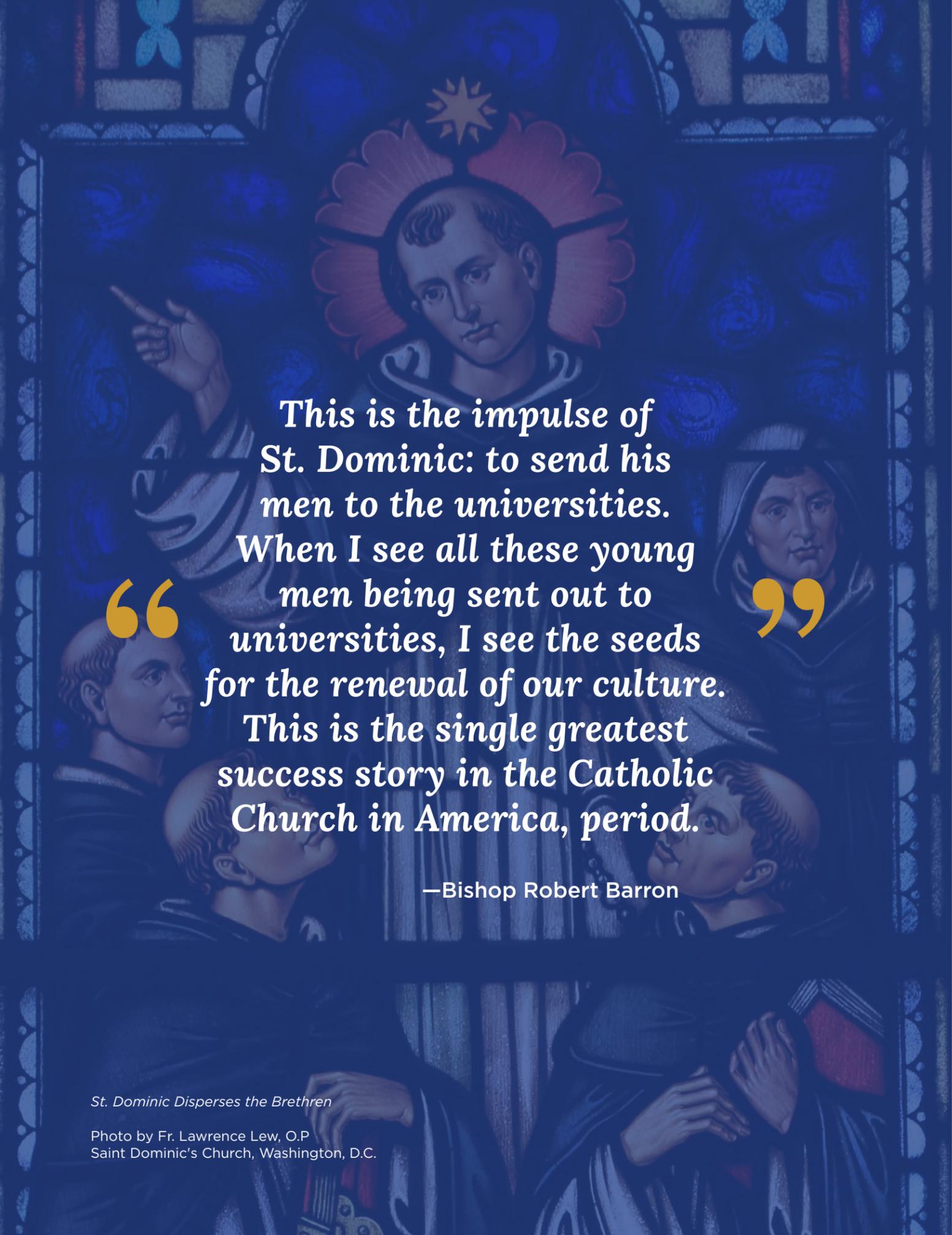
**800TH JUBILEE ISSUE:**

**Preaching God's Unchanging  
Love on Campus**

**A Thank You from Our  
Newly Ordained Priests!**

**Dominican Spirituality  
Among the Lepers of Tala**

Volume III, Issue II



**This is the impulse of St. Dominic: to send his men to the universities. When I see all these young men being sent out to universities, I see the seeds for the renewal of our culture. This is the single greatest success story in the Catholic Church in America, period.**

—Bishop Robert Barron

*St. Dominic Disperses the Brethren*  
Photo by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.  
Saint Dominic's Church, Washington, D.C.



Letter from the Director  
**Dear Friend,**

The Dominican Friars are celebrating our 800th Jubilee this year. From the very beginning, a central mission of our Order has been preaching for the salvation of souls at universities.

Just months after the Order of Preachers was established and when there were only 17 friars, St. Dominic dispersed them to found new houses at the universities of Europe. At first, the brothers objected, warning that this move would scatter the Order just when it needed to be built up. But St. Dominic replied, “Do not oppose me, for I know very well what I am doing.” And he did. By his death a few years later there were over 500 Dominican Friars spread throughout Europe!

Today, the Dominican Province of St. Joseph is the fastest growing men’s religious order in the country with over 70 men in formation. This May, we ordained 11 new priests—our largest ordination class in 45 years! Today, as in 1216, we are following the wisdom of our founder by sending friars out preach Christ as the answer to the burning questions of our age at our nation’s top universities.

I would like to commemorate the passing this March of a friar who embodied the Dominican mission to higher education: Fr. Raymond Ferrer Halligan spent 34 years teaching Philosophy, Theology, and Sacred Scripture at La Salle University before becoming Director of the Dominican Friars’ Guilds in New York.

I recently had the privilege of baptizing Fr. Halligan’s great-grandnephew, William Connors Lord, at St. Dominic’s Church in Washington, DC, where Fr. Halligan was ordained to the priesthood. Our blessings go out Fr. Halligan’s family, who have been great friends of the Order and loyal supporters of the Dominican Foundation in our mission to restore our culture by preaching Christ, the Truth, at our centers of higher learning.



*Father Gabriel*

Fr. Gabriel Gillen, O.P.  
Executive Director  
Dominican Foundation



Fr. Sebastian White, O.P., with students at the NYU Catholic Center

## PREACHING GOD'S UNCHANGING LOVE ON CAMPUS

The Dominican Friars are preaching the truth of Jesus Christ at Dartmouth, Brown, UVA, NYU, Johns Hopkins, and Quinnipiac University as campus chaplains. BlackFriars spoke with NYU Catholic Center chaplain Fr. Sebastian White, O.P., about his ministry, which has led many students to enter the Catholic Church or return to the Sacraments.

### How do you see your role at NYU?

The Catholic Center at NYU exists to help students know Jesus Christ and understand their true purpose, which is to live and love eternally with God. NYU is considered a top school, but if there were no Catholic

priest here, the students would be missing the most important part of their formation as human beings. Our motto is taken from the Scripture: "be transformed by the renewal of your mind" (Rom. 12:2).

### What is the main challenge to campus ministry today?

The mentality of our culture orders everything to serve the self, even the begetting of children, who are often raised to fit their parents' lifestyle and affirm their self-image. Many kids who get into elite universities have experienced some form of this. Students need much more than possessions and opportunities: they need love. Real love.

### How are the friars meeting this challenge?

The Dominican Friars are able to share the truth of God's love in a way that is compelling. I often tell students what I learned from Fr. Romanus Cessario, O.P.: God does not love you because you are good, but because He is good. God's love for you doesn't change. Sin can frustrate that in your life, but God doesn't change, which is why, no matter what you do, you gain nothing by hiding from Him or not bringing your sins to Him. Progress in Christian Life is a deepening realization of the truth of God's love for you, and being transformed by that love.

**Your generosity gives friars like Fr. White the formation they need to evangelize on campus! Thank you!**



**Our newly ordained priests extend their gratitude and blessings to YOU, our donors.**

**Thank you for equipping these men to go out and preach the Gospel!**

### FROM LEFT:

Fr. John Baptist Hoang, O.P., Fr. Michael Mary Weibley, O.P., Fr. John Sica, O.P., Fr. Clement Dickie, O.P., Fr. Dominic Mary Verner, O.P., Fr. Gregory Maria Pine, O.P., Fr. Joseph-Anthony Kress, O.P., Fr. Athanasius Murphy, O.P., Fr. Louis Bertrand Mary Lemoine, O.P., Fr. Raymund Snyder, O.P., Fr. Patrick Mary Briscoe, O.P.

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Contact **Catherine Scalera**  
(646) 350-0156  
cscalera@dominicanfriars.org





## DONOR PROFILE

## ALBERT JUERGENS: Creating a Contemplative Legacy

First deacon's retreat at St. Albert's



Artist and inventor Albert Juergens recently donated his Catskills estate to the Dominican Friars. After turning an outbuilding into small chapel, the Friars held their first retreat at St. Albert's Retreat Center, named for the 13th-century Dominican Doctor of the Church and teacher of St. Thomas Aquinas. We extend our gratitude to Mr. Juergens and all our donors for helping us contemplate Christ and share the fruits of our contemplation with a world hungry for Truth.

God works in many ways. In 1937 my parents bought a small farm with a house dating from 1855, a barn, and 34 acres of land as a place for their children to spend summer vacations. The house had no indoor plumbing, and the only water was supplied to a cast iron sink in the kitchen from a spring some quarter mile up the mountainside above the house.

As the years went by, changes and additions were made. In 1987 my wife, Lore, and I moved to a house in the farm orchard, which we had built piecemeal over the years to accommodate our four children, their spouses, and our 19 grandchildren. Starting about three years ago, Lore had some unfortunate falls, which led to a change in our plans to live out our lives in Huntersfield. Since our children and grandchildren were scattered to the four winds, there was no logical family member to inherit the farm.

We had always referred to the farm being in God's country. Mountains seem closer to God. It became my intention to return the farm effectively to God. Last year, we learned about the Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph. They struck us as smiling, energetic, and devoted young men who dedicate their lives to doing God's work. Since many of the friars are carrying out their mission in New York, a city of high intensity, it seemed logical to gift the farm to the Friars as a place for contemplation and renewal. Logos and the Spirit provided the solution.

*Donations are appreciated for the continued renovation and furnishing of St. Albert's.*

## PRAYING THE ROSARY WITH LOU HOLTZ

**This spring, Dominican Foundation Director Fr. Gabriel Gillen, O.P., met with former Notre Dame football coach Lou Holtz, a friend of the Friars. The following are coach Holtz's remarks on the impact of the Rosary on his life and work:**



Many years ago, when I was in Iowa, I met a young lady who gave me the secret to having success in life: pray the Rosary. She told me that if I really had a strong desire to have something happen in my life, to pray the Rosary for thirty straight days asking for this request. And then to say it for 30 consecutive days thanking Our Lady that it transpired. The first time I did it was 1988, praying for Notre Dame to win the National Championship. And we did!

Of course, the main reason you say the Rosary isn't because you want something to happen. You say the Rosary because it brings you closer to the Lord. When you say the Rosary daily, you'll never be the same. It will change your entire attitude towards people, towards life, and towards yourself.

The Friars know this. Ever since St. Dominic was given the Rosary by Our Lady, it has been the most powerful spiritual weapon the Church has.

*“When you say the Rosary daily, you'll never be the same.”*

**St. Dominic's preaching brought back thousands from heresy after he promoted the Rosary to open hearts to the Word. Your donation helps the Friars continue this Rosary Apostolate on college campuses, in our parishes, and in the public square.**



# DOMINICAN SPIRITUALITY AMONG THE LEPERS OF TALA

By Br. Antoninus Maria Samy, O.P.

**Br. Antoninus Samy holds a doctorate in economic history from Oxford University and worked for the Australian Government before becoming a Dominican Friar.**

Several years ago, I served as a Dominican lay volunteer in the Philippines, where one of my apostolates was to work in a leprosy hospital. One patient there, a 75-year-old man who was severely deformed and crippled by his disease, made a particular impression on me given the joy he radiated despite his great suffering.

One day when we were talking, I ran out of things to say and asked a somewhat clumsy question: “So Kuya Manny, have you done anything interesting this week?” His answer astounded me: “We don’t do much really, apart from suffer. But we don’t suffer for nothing. We suffer for all those outside who need God’s mercy and love, and we offer up our sufferings gladly for them because we know that God loves us very much.”

I later traced this heroic spirituality to an American Dominican, Fr. Anthony Leo Hofstee, O.P., a World War II military

chaplain who devoted his life to the care of the lepers in Tala after seeing their miserable plight while on R&R there. In addition to using his military connections to improve the patients’ living standards, Fr. Hofstee used the spiritual wisdom he had gained from his formation at the Dominican House of Studies to teach the lepers that, like Christ, they could use their crosses for the salvation of souls. In the process, Fr. Hofstee transformed the lepers from mere victims into interceding contemplatives.

Inspired by Fr. Hofstee’s example, I thank God for leading me to a life devoted to the service of Christ and of the poor, which is made possible by your generous financial support.



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