

Official Publication of the Dominican Friars Foundation



# BLACKFRIARS

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

**Friars and Civic Engagement**

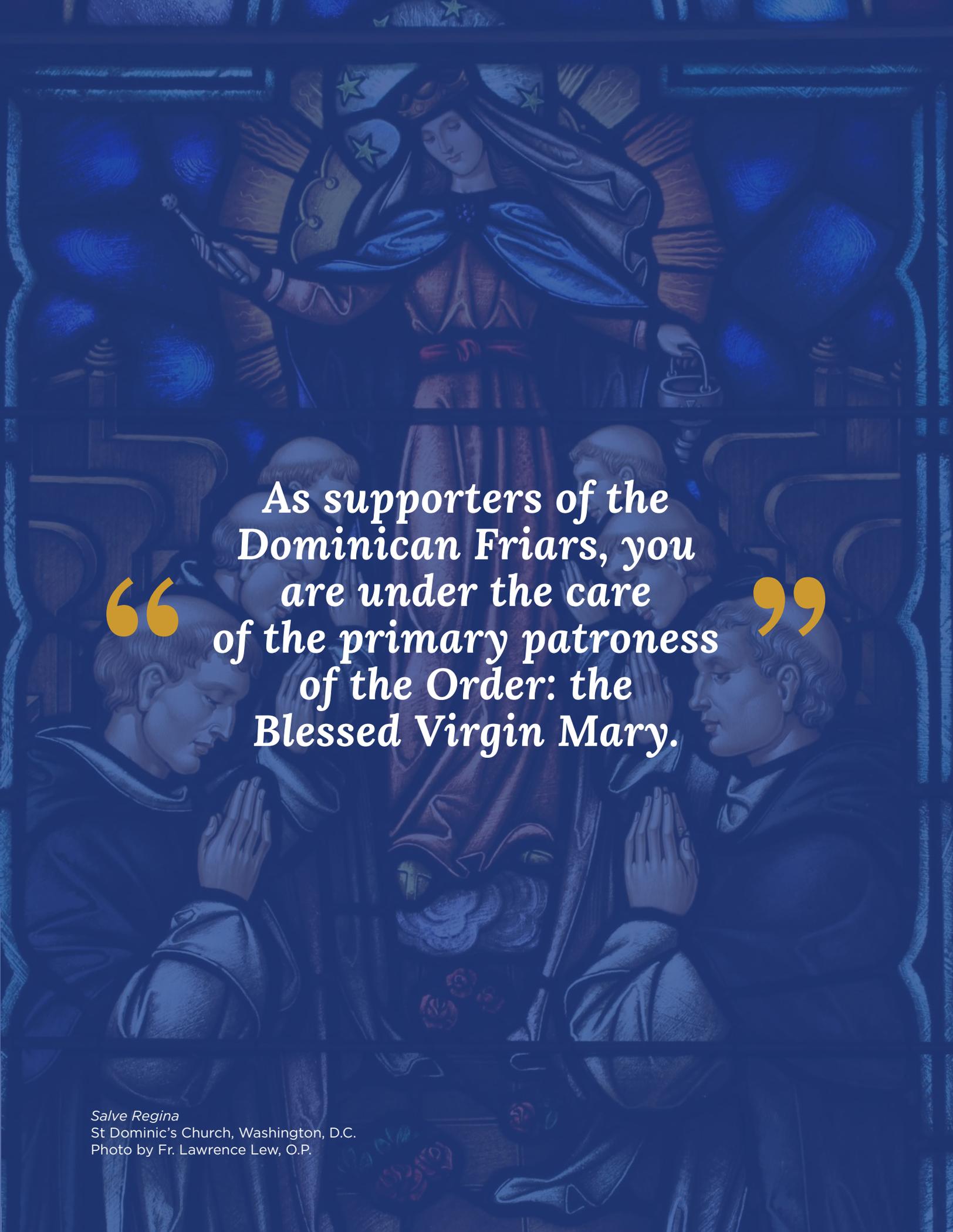
**Thomistic Institute Holds Aquinas on Metaphysics Conference**

**Pilgrimage to the Tomb of St. Mary Magdalene**

Fr. Innocent Smith, O.P., plays the flute after Mass in Laderas, Peru, where he accompanied missionaries from Frassati Fellowship of NYC. See page 7

Photo by Jon Marquez

Volume IV, Issue III



**“As supporters of the Dominican Friars, you are under the care of the primary patroness of the Order: the Blessed Virgin Mary.”**

*Salve Regina*  
St Dominic's Church, Washington, D.C.  
Photo by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.



Letter from the Director

**Dear Friend,**

As I write this, the summer is drawing to a close. The ancient Romans coined the term *dies caninula*, the “dog days” of summer, as a reference to Sirius, the dog star, which rises just before the sun this time of year. Likewise, the Order of Preachers is blessed with a rising number of *domini canes*, “God’s dogs,” as the friars are nicknamed. Watch this video to meet the young men who finished novitiate this August and are continuing formation at the Dominican House of Studies thanks to your generosity: [dominicanfriars.org/novices](http://dominicanfriars.org/novices)

This summer, I was asked to lead a group of FOCUS missionaries and college students to two marian shrines: Our Lady of Knock in Ireland and the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal. In my daily masses at those holy sites, I remembered you who have been so generous to the Dominican Friars and to the souls who are being reached by our preaching.

In this issue of *BlackFriars*, Br. Daniel Traceski, O.P., reports from the Thomistic Institute philosophy conference in Newburgh, New York. Students and teachers committed to the philosophical realism of Aristotle and St. Thomas shared ideas and formed friendships before returning to their respective campuses to serve as beacons in secular academic environments marked by confusion and darkness.

You will learn about a friar-led missions trip to Peru, and how two Dominican student brothers prayed for your intentions at an ancient holy site: the cave of St. Mary Magdalene in France.

You will also hear of the efforts of three friars to defend life, religious freedom, and the rule of law here in the United States.

I also invite you to read about a generous bequest from Mr. Robert Mullin in honor of his late older brother, Fr. Francis Raymond Mullin, O.P. We are looking forward to memorializing Mr. Mullin’s generosity by engraving Fr. Raymond’s name in the cloister of the Dominican House of Studies, where the brothers gather for evening prayer.



As you prepare to return renewed to the activities of autumn, I entrust you to the care of the Blessed Virgin. As supporters of the Dominican Friars, you are under the care of the primary patroness of the Order: the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In Mary and Dominic,

*Fr. Gabriel*

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

**Photo:** Fr. Gabriel Gillen, O.P., with FOCUS missionaries and college students on pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, Ireland



## THE DOMINICAN FRIARS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

By *BlackFriars* staff

For 800 years, the Dominican Friars have engaged in debate over contested ideas wherever the faith is challenged. Medieval friars participated in disputations governed by highly formalized rules that often took place before large crowds. Today, in a society wracked by more fundamental divisions, the Dominicans seek to elevate the discourse and find common ground while upholding the truths of the faith and natural reason.

Fr. Boniface Endorf, O.P., recently addressed Ohio lawmakers in support of a proposed bill protecting pastors from officiating at civil unions in violation of their religious convictions. “The issue here is whether an American has the right to believe what all the Founders of this nation believed about marriage and the human condition, or not,” Fr. Endorf stated in his testimony.

Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P., professor of biology and bioethics at Providence College,

was called before the Rhode Island House Judiciary Committee to testify against a bill that could roll back regulation of the abortion industry. “You end up having this situation where a woman struggles with the incoherence of what she has done. This bill does not acknowledge that,” said Fr. Austriaco, speaking of his experience working with Project Rachel counseling women who regret having an abortion.

Fr. Pius Pietrzyk, O.P., serves as a member of the bipartisan board of the Legal Service Corporation (LSC), which provides civil legal aid to low-income Americans. “In my tenure on the LSC Board, I have tried always to emphasize that the primary goal of LSC is to help the poor—not federal bureaucrats and not ideologues,” writes Fr. Pietrzyk in an article calling for continued funding of a successfully restructured LSC.

**By supporting friar formation, you ensure that the charism of St. Dominic and the wisdom of St. Thomas continue to act as leaven in our society during these difficult times!**

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Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P., testifies against a Rhode Island house bill that would lessen restrictions on abortion.

Photo by Lauren Clem, staff reporter, *Rhode Island Catholic*; used with permission



*“This is the way philosophy is meant to be done: in charity, with friends who love the truth and share the same principles, with whom argument and disagreement are welcome as means to bring us all closer to genuine wisdom.”*

Photo: Fr. Brian Chrzastek, O.P., assistant professor of philosophy at the DHS, speaks with Mariana Barillas of the Chiaroscuro Institute at the 7th annual Thomistic Institute philosophy conference in Newburgh, NY.



## PHILOSOPHY AS IT IS MEANT TO BE DONE: THOMISTIC INSTITUTE HOLDS AQUINAS ON METAPHYSICS CONFERENCE

By Br. Daniel Traceski, O.P.

This summer, the Dominican-run Thomistic Institute, joined by the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture and the Catholic and Dominican Institute, brought together eminent philosophers and graduate students from around the country to discuss “Aquinas on Metaphysics.” The three-day workshop was held on the beautiful campus of Mount Saint Mary College overlooking the Hudson River in Newburgh, NY.

Metaphysics is the branch of philosophy in which human reason studies all things that exist, what is common to them, and what—or rather, Who—gives them their existence. Presenters were experts in the thought of Aquinas and the Thomistic tradition, including Dominican House of

Studies professor of philosophy Fr. James Brent, O.P.

Each day included Morning Prayer, Mass, three presentations, a discussion panel, and a holy hour with opportunity for confession. Meals and late evening socials continued the intellectual discussion and facilitated friendships. As DHS faculty member Fr. Dominic Legge, O.P., expressed in his welcoming remarks, “We have, for a few days, a real community for philosophical inquiry. This is the way philosophy is meant to be done: in charity, with friends who love the truth and share the same principles, with whom argument and disagreement are welcome as means to bring us all closer to genuine wisdom.”



From left: Br. Daniel Traceski, O.P., Mr. Robert Mullin, and Br. Reginald Hoefler, O.P., at the priory of St. Vincent Ferrer in New York  
Photo by Gabriella Cerqueira

## DONOR PROFILE

## ROBERT MULLIN: Honoring a Brother with a Lasting Legacy

**We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Robert Mullin for his generous bequest, and welcome him as the latest member of the St. Dominic Legacy Society!**

Mr. Mullin is a retired educator who taught the children of US servicemen and women in Japan, Germany, England, Morocco, and Denmark. He holds a doctorate in education from Columbia Teachers College, where he also served as a professor education before moving on to Queens College, City University of New York.

“I included the friars in my will because of the vocations,” says Mr. Mullin. “The numbers are fantastic, but so are the quality of the men coming into the Order.”

Mr. Mullin left the Friars this bequest in honor of his older brother, Fr. Francis Raymond Mullin, O.P., of the Province of St. Joseph, who passed away in 2009. Fr. Mullin entered the Order in 1964 after meeting the Dominicans while teaching deaf students at Gallaudet University near the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, DC.

In recognition of this substantial gift, Fr. Raymond Mullin’s name will be engraved on the wall of the cloister at the Dominican House of Studies, where the friars gather for evening prayer.

**If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one with a gift to the Dominican Friars, call Fr. Gabriel Gillen, O.P., at 212-535-3665.**

*“I included the Friars in my will because of the vocations. The numbers are fantastic, but so are the quality of the men coming into the Order.”*

# MISSION TO PERU

Fr Innocent Smith, O.P., and Fr. Dominic Bump, O.P., accompanied members of Frassati Fellowship of NYC on a missions trip to the shanty town of Laderas, Peru, together with three Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. The Frassati Fellowship is a group of young adults committed to following in the footsteps of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, a Third Order Dominican.

Fr. Innocent Smith, O.P., distributes Communion in the Church of St Damien of Molokai in Laderas, Peru on the Feast of St. Dominic.



Members of Frassati Fellowship of NYC prepare the foundation for a new home. Photos by Jon Marquez

# PILGRIMAGE TO THE TOMB OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE



This July, Brs. Constantius Sanders and Paul Clarke made a pilgrimage to La Sainte Baume (the Holy Cave), near Marseille, for the feast of St. Mary Magdalene. There they assisted with the feast day pilgrimage and prayed for you, the supporters of the Dominican Friars!

According to tradition, St. Mary Magdalene - a patron of the Dominican Order - lived in this cave, situated over 1,000 feet up the side of a mountain, for years after the Resurrection of Our Lord. Christians have been visiting this site for nearly 2,000 years. The Dominicans were given care of La Sainte Baume almost 750 years ago, and still offer lodging to pilgrims.

# THE DESERVING POOR BOYS' PRIESTHOOD ASSOCIATION TURNS 100

By *BlackFriars* staff

For 100 years, members of the Deserving Poor Boys' Priesthood Association have helped young men answer the call of Jesus Christ to become Dominican priests.

The Association was founded by Fr. Raymond Meagher, O.P., Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of St. Joseph and cofounder of Providence College. As Fr. Meagher put it, "There is a need of a great army of men in the white habit of St. Dominic, highly educated and apostolic preachers and teachers, whose active life would reflect the traditional contemplative spirit of the Order of Preachers."

Today, with over 70 men in formation, the Province of St. Joseph has the fastest growing men's vocations program in the United States. With the help of generous donors, many of whom learned about the Association in their Dominican parishes, the Deserving Poor Boys' Priesthood Association is answering the call of St. Dominic in the 21st century.



Members make financial gifts as concrete expressions of spiritual dedication, "living stones," set on the foundation laid by St. Dominic to build up a spiritual house capable of offering acceptable sacrifices to God.

In 1928, the Association received official recognition from Pope Pius XI, who granted its members a plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions, to be gained annually and in the hour of death. By joining the Association, members can receive this indulgence and reap the spiritual benefit of masses and prayers offered by the priests of the Province of St. Joseph. Additionally, the faithful departed can be enrolled in the Deserving Poor Boys' Purgatorian Society.



For information on membership in the Association or enrollment of a departed loved one in the Purgatorian Society, contact Fr. Thomas More Garrett, O.P., at [tmgarrett@dominicanfriars.org](mailto:tmgarrett@dominicanfriars.org) or visit [dominicanfriars.org/poorboys](http://dominicanfriars.org/poorboys).

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