

Official Publication of the Dominican Foundation



BLACKFRIARS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**A Dominican Miracle
in Columbus, Ohio**

Thomistic Evolution

**Preaching, Prayer, and
Service in the Bronx**

Dominican Friars with the College
Knights of Columbus and Mercy
Centre volunteers at World Youth day
in Krakow, Poland. See special insert
for more photos.

Volume III, Issue III



Letter from the Director

Dear Friend,

This past July I had the great privilege - along with eight other Dominican friars from the Province of St. Joseph - of leading a pilgrimage for the College Knights of Columbus and the Sisters of Life in the lead up to World Youth Day in Kraków, Poland, where we ran an at-capacity arena filled with 20,000 young people deepening their faith.

We followed in the footsteps of two great Saints who championed the Gospel of Jesus Christ against the ideologies of their day. At Auschwitz, we sought the intercession of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the great promoter of devotion to the

Immaculate Heart of Mary, who hid 2,000 Jews from persecution before being taken to Auschwitz himself. On the site where we prayed, Fr. Kolbe gave his own life in place of another prisoner who had been sentenced to death.

We also visited the Saint John Paul II Sanctuary, originally the site of the Zakrzówek rock quarry, where a young Karol Wojtyła was forced to work during the five-year Nazi occupation of Poland while secretly studying at an underground

“...the Dominican Friars are committed to preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ against the false ideologies of our own time.”

theological seminary. There we prayed for the intentions of our donors before the cassock bearing the drops of blood of the sainted Holy Father, blood he shed during the assassination attempt of May 13, 1981 in Saint Peter's Square. Wojtyła was especially hated by the KGB for his support of *Solidarity*, the Polish trade union that resisted control by the Communist Party.

Against the backdrop of a land that had suffered the horrors of two materialist errors of the 20th century - Communism and National Socialism - World Youth Day 2016 was a testimony that the Gospel outlives the ideologies of any age, because only Jesus Christ fulfills the deepest longing of the human heart!

Whether by serving the poor and marginalized, defending the reasonableness of the faith, or building up our nation's parishes to the glory of God, the Dominican Friars are committed

to preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ against the false ideologies of our own time. We couldn't do it without YOU, our donors. Thank you and may God bless you!

Father Gabriel

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





A DOMINICAN MIRACLE IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

Adapted with permission from *Regina Magazine*

A few quick facts about this amazing parish:

- **It is over 150 years old**
- **It is surrounded by old warehouses and a secular community college**
- **It is located in the downtown core of a major metropolitan city**
- **It has no “neighborhood” – no houses, no families, no community**
- **It was established and built by poor Irish immigrants**

If your first reaction is: “It would take a miracle to fill that church” you would probably be right – anywhere, that is, but at Saint Patrick’s Church in Columbus, Ohio. St. Patrick’s is brimming with youthful, traditional, and, some say, evangelical religious and parishioners, thanks to the steadfast efforts of the Dominicans. Here, Fr. Boniface Endorf, O.P., talks with Regina about his experience as parochial vicar at St. Patrick’s:

What drew you to the Dominicans and parish ministry?

The Dominican charism is to preach for the salvation of souls, which puts it in the center of the new evangelization. I wanted to be on the front lines.

What has been your experience to date at St Patrick’s?

St. Patrick’s is a great parish. The parishioners are very devoted and active, and there are always many things going on. Also, we have a great confessional ministry. We have daily confessions and people come from all over Columbus for daily mass and confession.

The pastor of St. Patrick’s, Fr. Michael Dosch, O.P., said offering people hope in the confessional means helping them see the ways God is already working in their lives, lifting them up in little or big ways.

I hope to show God’s mercy to those who come to confession, and for those who have either wandered away from the Church or who have never known Jesus in their lives. Mercy is coming to know God’s love in one’s life, and so I hope to help people know that divine love. Without that there is no hope or salvation, but with it is true joy and peace.

PREACHING, PRAYER, AND SERVICE IN THE BRONX

By Br. James Wallace, O.P. and Br. John Mark Solitario, O.P.



This summer we were honored to serve the poor in New York City alongside the Missionaries of Charity, the order of religious sisters founded by St. Teresa of Calcutta, who was canonized by Pope Francis on September 4th.

The sisters’ manner of speaking rather frankly “to God” and “about God” is amazingly compatible with the spiritual legacy of St. Dominic, who asked the brothers to have charity with one another, flowing from their love of God. The sisters’ single-minded pursuit of God is a powerful example to us to keep things simple in answering His call.

We Dominicans, in turn, were able to bring our love of preaching and clear

presentation of doctrine to enrich the ministries conducted by the Missionaries of Charity. Whether offering a reflection on the daily Gospel reading at the soup kitchen, conversing with the homeless, or teaching catechism to children at the sisters’ summer camp, we were able to feed the minds of those coming to the sisters for bodily and spiritual nourishment. You could say that the Missionaries of Charity and the Dominicans make a good team for the New Evangelization!

We thank you, our donors, for helping us proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to all in need!



Photos by Jaime Permuth

MARY ALICE O’CONNOR:

A Life of Seeking Truth



With deep gratitude, the Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph honor the life of a dear friend and benefactor, Mary Alice O’Connor, 1929-2015. For over forty years, Mary Alice was a faithful parishioner at the Dominican church of St. Mary’s in New Haven, Connecticut, and a personal friend to many of the friars. BlackFriars spoke with her son, Kiernan O’Connor—a speaker, author, and educator on wealth and legacy planning—about his remarkable mother and her decision to bequeath her IRA to the Dominican Friars.

How did your mother come to know the Friars?

My mother was orthodox in her faith and extremely well read—she was reading St. Augustine’s Confessions on her deathbed. I’m the youngest of nine and all our middle names are either Dominican or Jesuit saints (mine is Aquinas). When we moved to Connecticut from the Midwest in 1972, the parishes were in turmoil after Vatican II, and it was a very difficult time for my mother. As soon as she learned that St. Mary’s was a Dominican parish, she started attending daily mass there.

So that became your family parish?

Yes. My mother was a great lover of classical music and had a very sophisticated taste in art, so everything

about St. Mary’s appealed to her. It became the heart of her life for her last 40 years. As it turns out, Dominican friars make great dinner guests, so we always had them in our home growing up. In my mother’s last 10 years, she moved within walking distance of St. Mary’s, which helped because of her bad knees. After having two artificial knees put in, she would spend hours in Adoration there.

How did she decide to leave her IRA to the Dominican Friars?

My father, who managed the finances, passed away in 2013. As a wealth advisor specializing in legacy planning, I was the most qualified in the family to help my mother. Looking at her IRA, I realized that, with nine children, the single biggest

beneficiary would be the government. This was not appealing to her. She did want to provide a monetary bequest for her children, but it wasn’t her main goal. To her, generosity meant not writing checks but having children, being open to life. So we settled on the Dominican Friars. After we documented the gift, she received a statue of St. Dominic in honor of her and my dad—she loved that.

Aquinas. She knew her *Summa*! For her, theology was not some abstract subject for a minority of people to study. What she loved about the Dominicans is that they make theology accessible to everybody and that strengthens and enlightens your faith. She once said, “You cannot stop learning about your faith. You have to study constantly, because otherwise it will start to erode.” So she wanted to support the friars in that constant seeking for truth.

What did she hope her gift would accomplish?

She loved the intellectual life of the Church and wanted to help the Friars carry on the tradition of St. Thomas

AN IRA ROLLOVER GIFT IS A SMART WAY TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Make an IRA gift of any amount
OR
Make the Dominican Friars a beneficiary of your IRA and become a member of the St. Dominic Legacy Society
AND
ENJOY DOUBLE TAX BENEFITS!

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





Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P., speaking at Aquinas College in Nashville, Tennessee.

UNDERSTANDING EVOLUTIONARY THEORY WITH ST. THOMAS

Four friars from the Province of St. Joseph; Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P., Fr. James Brent, O.P., Br. Thomas Davenport, O.P., and Fr. John Baptist Ku, O.P.; have developed a website called *Thomistic Evolution* (thomisticevolution.org) and a companion book, that sheds light on disputed questions surrounding the relationship between biological evolution and the Catholic faith. The friars are convinced that the philosophical and theological insights of their Dominican

brother, St. Thomas Aquinas, provide the key to understanding the discoveries of modern science in the light of faith.

“Aquinas was a realist. He might not have known that biological organisms evolve, but he knew that things change and he thought about how change happens. We have taken his principles of change and have applied them to what we know today about how species evolve,” says Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P., who holds a Ph.D. in Biology from M.I.T. and an S.T.D. in Moral Theology from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland and is a Professor of Biology and of Theology at Providence College.

The friars received a grant from the Evolution and Christian Faith (ECF) Program of the BioLogos Foundation, a multi-million dollar grants program sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation, and have spoken about *Thomistic Evolution* at Harvard, NYU, and other universities to packed auditoriums. “When you bring the intellect into conversation with divine revelation and with scientific data, people love it,” says Fr. Nicanor. “Many never realized you could do theology in this sophisticated manner.”

Your donations help us form friars who can apply the wisdom of St. Thomas Aquinas to the questions of the modern world!

Tune into **Sirius XM129** every Friday at 1:00pm ET for the Dominican-hosted *Word to Life* radio broadcast.

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Executive Director | Father Gabriel Gillen, O.P. |
| Director/COO | John Lacorazza |
| Planned Giving Officer | Catherine Scalera |
| Marketing Director | Barry Clark |
| Planned Giving Manager | Marie Smith |
| Editor | Matthew Kirby |
| Graphic Designer | Andre Padayhag |
| Photo Retoucher | Joshua Vargas |



www.blackfriarsmedia.org



facebook.com/dominicanfriars



www.dominicanfriars.org



Blackfriars Media App