

Official Publication of the Dominican Friars Foundation



BLACKFRIARS

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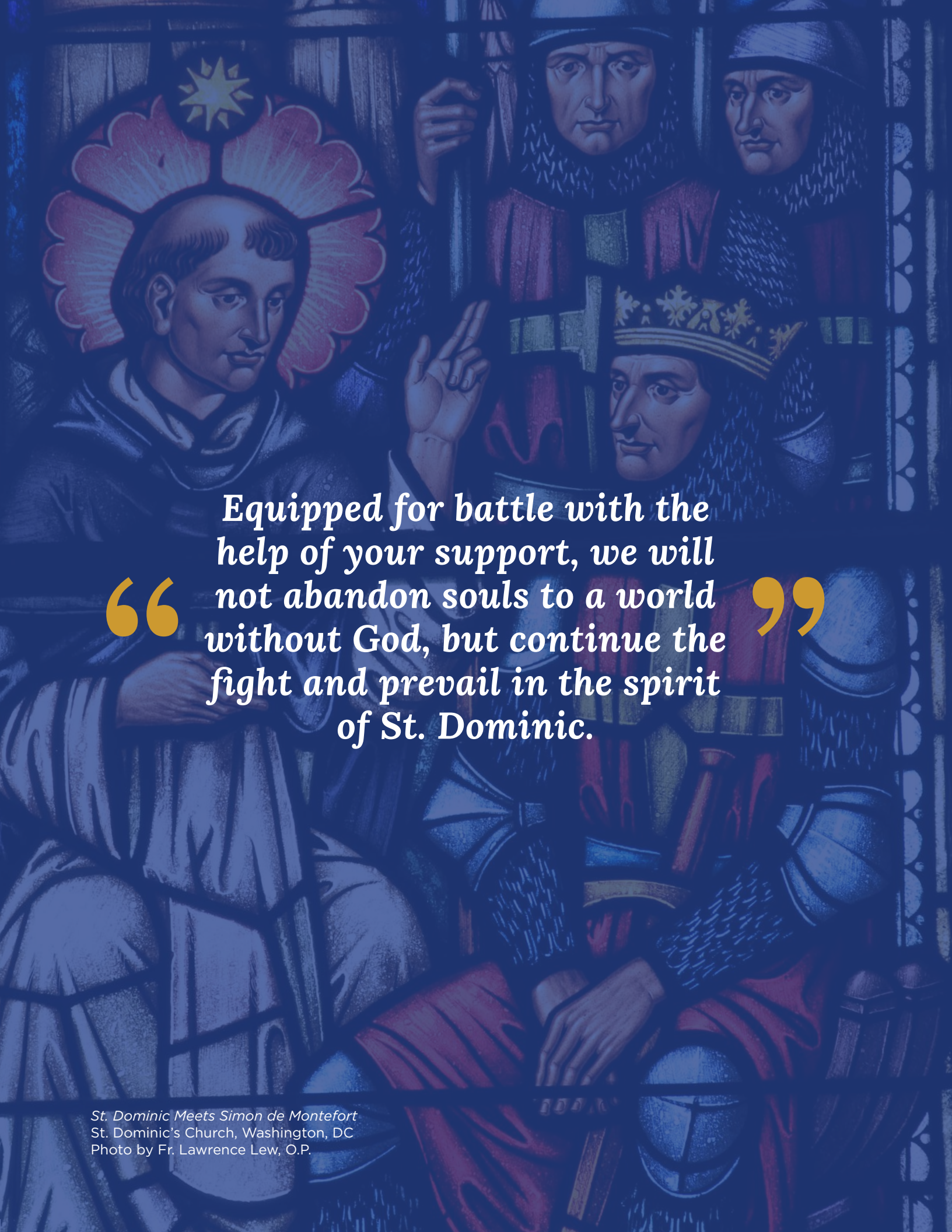
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MD-PhD student Ana Maria Dumitru with
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Volume IV, Issue II



St. Dominic Meets Simon de Montfort
St. Dominic's Church, Washington, DC
Photo by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.

“Equipped for battle with the help of your support, we will not abandon souls to a world without God, but continue the fight and prevail in the spirit of St. Dominic.”



Letter from the Director

Dear Friend,

The National Gallery in Washington DC, which is a short walk from Saint Dominic's Priory, has one of my favorite paintings by Rembrandt. Throughout his life the artist was fascinated by St. Paul.



Sitting at a table in his prison cell, the Apostle ponders the words he is about to write in the epistle that lies before him. The solemn expression of Paul's strong features underscores the depth of his belief and sense of purpose in his mission of rescuing humanity from the dominion of sin.

The sword visible above the book is as much the “sword of the Spirit,” the term he used to describe the living word of God in his letter to the Ephesians, as it is the symbol of his military prowess as a soldier for Christ. Paul viewed the cross of Christ, as an inverted sword. Throughout his life he cherished taking up Christ's sword of sorrow which he kept close to him like a promised prize of victory.

It is no wonder that St. Dominic always carried Paul's epistles slung at his belt. In this manner he constantly stocked the

arsenal of his mind with the arms of the spirit in preparation for the next conflict, and reenergized his soul by intimate contact with God.

The Dominican Friars continue to live out St. Dominic's call to action bolstered by contemplation. We prepare to preach the Gospel convincingly by stocking our minds with the best “spiritual weapons”: the sound philosophy of our elder brother St. Thomas, the teachings of the Church's magisterium, and the truths of science and the other branches of knowledge.

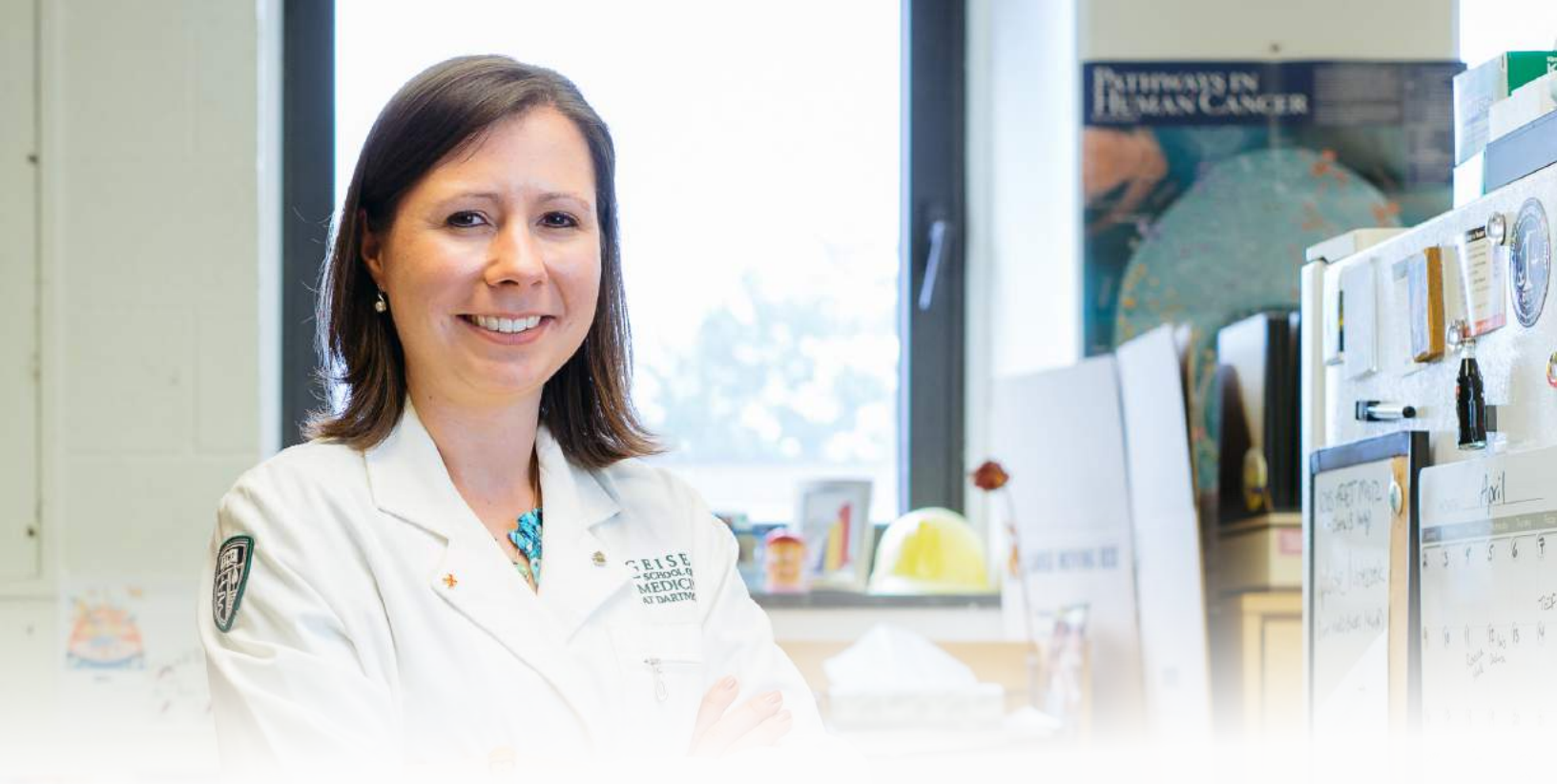
In this issue of *BlackFriars*, you'll read about Dominican Friars bringing God in word and sacrament to souls in secular institutions—colleges and hospitals—that are considered elite by the world's standards. This is something we Dominicans are uniquely positioned to do—largely thanks to your generosity. Equipped for battle with the help of your support, we will not abandon souls to a world without God, but continue the fight and prevail in the spirit of St. Dominic.

Yours in Christ and St. Dominic,

Father Gabriel

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

Photo: The Apostle Paul By Rembrandt van Rijn
National Gallery of Art



DEFENDING LIFE AT DARTMOUTH: AN INTERVIEW WITH ANA MARIA DUMITRU

By BlackFriars Staff

Ana Maria Dumitru is a sixth year MD-PhD candidate at Dartmouth College's Geisel School of Medicine, a member of Medical Students for Life, a trained instructor on Natural Family Planning methods, and a frequent speaker and writer on pro-life and natural fertility issues. BlackFriars spoke with Ana Maria about standing up for Life on a secular campus and her relationship with the Dominican Friars, who serve the Aquinas House Catholic Student Center at Dartmouth.

How did you become a spokesperson for the Church's teachings on life and fertility issues?

I've been Catholic and Pro-Life my whole life, but I've never been forced to take a stand for either until I got to Dartmouth. In my first year, one of my classmates cornered me in the hallway and questioned

me on the difference between the Catholic Church's teaching on Natural Family Planning and artificial birth control. From then on, I found myself in increasingly intense conversations about the meaning and purpose of studying medicine and the teachings of the Catholic Church.



Ana Maria at mass in the chapel of Aquinas House, the Catholic Student Center at Dartmouth College.

“Time and again, the Dominicans have reminded me that I’m not alone in my journey.”

Have you encountered resistance in standing up for the sanctity of life?

For the most part the people that I've debated here at Dartmouth have been reasonable, but at times I've been insulted and yelled at. I've seen a whole range of reactions. What has changed is my own way of responding and the manner in which I engage these conversations. When I first got here, I tried to fly under the radar. Now if someone asks me to have a conversation about a controversial issue, I'm there - I'm ready. The shift is the result of praying for courage and the ability to articulate my beliefs.

How have our friars support you in facing controversy?

The friars have been an intellectual resource. Fr. Thomas More Garrett taught a summer series on campus about religious liberty and the Constitution [in connection with The Waterman Institute] that helped me frame life issues in terms of legislative history. Many friars have pointed me to books, articles, and blogs that address current events in light of Church teaching. Even before I started conducting research, I benefited from Dominican preaching. The homilies of the friars are very distinctive and I learn something new each day at Mass at the Aquinas Center.

How has the Dominican presence on campus benefited you spiritually?

I was in a dark place at the end of my first year of med school. I was feeling overwhelmed and tired and I hadn't yet learned how to articulate my beliefs. Then

the Dominican student brothers arrived for the summer and brought fresh energy, knowledge, and support. Time and again, the Dominicans have reminded me that I'm not alone in my journey. I can feel the power of their prayers. I've written articles and I've done radio interviews, and they've always prayed me through it. I am certain I wouldn't be at this point in my faith journey without their prayers.



Fr. Brendan Murphy, O.P., talks with students outside Aquinas House

Does Dominican spirituality continue to play a role in your life?

Around exam time during my first year of med school, Fr. Jonathan Kalisch [former chaplain at Aquinas House] gave me the Prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas Before Study. I've been praying it every day since. St. Thomas is an intellectual giant, yet he realized that everything we do on this earth is nothing compared with what comes next. He helps me remember that God has a plan for everything. He has all the knowledge and truth, and I just have to try my best to be His witness here.



Prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas Before Study

Creator of all things, true source of light and wisdom, origin of all being, graciously let a ray of your light penetrate the darkness of my understanding.

Take from me the double darkness in which I have been born, an obscurity of sin and ignorance.

Give me a keen understanding, a retentive memory, and the ability to grasp things correctly and fundamentally.

Grant me the talent of being exact in my explanations and the ability to express myself with thoroughness and charm.

Point out the beginning, direct the progress, and help in the completion. I ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HONOR A FAMILY MEMBER:

Make a tribute gift to the Dominican Friars in your will.

To learn more, contact:

Diana Kilarjian at 646-350-0108 or Diana.Kilarjian@DominicanFriars.org.



Fr. Jacob Bertrand Janczyk, O.P.; Fr. Alan Piper, O.P.; Fr. Luke Hoyt, O.P.; Fr. Bonaventure Chapman, O.P.; Fr. Thomas Davenport, O.P.; Fr. Joachim Kenny, O.P.; and Fr. Edmund McCullough, O.P. were ordained to the priesthood on May 20th at St. Dominic's Church in Washington, DC.

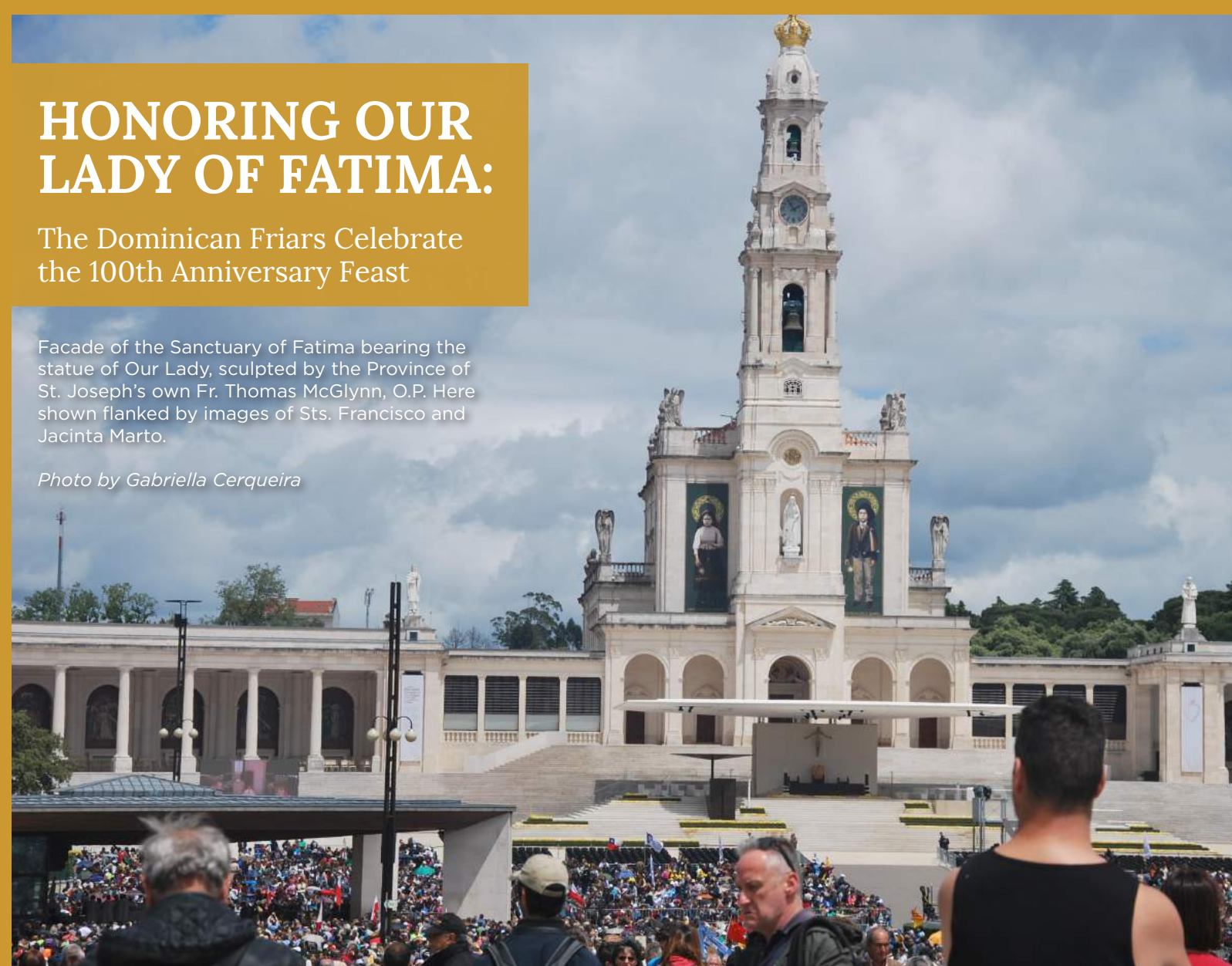
Your generosity has helped form these men as priests of Jesus Christ! Please keep them in your prayers.

HONORING OUR LADY OF FATIMA:

The Dominican Friars Celebrate the 100th Anniversary Feast

Facade of the Sanctuary of Fatima bearing the statue of Our Lady, sculpted by the Province of St. Joseph's own Fr. Thomas McGlynn, O.P. Here shown flanked by images of Sts. Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

Photo by Gabriella Cerqueira

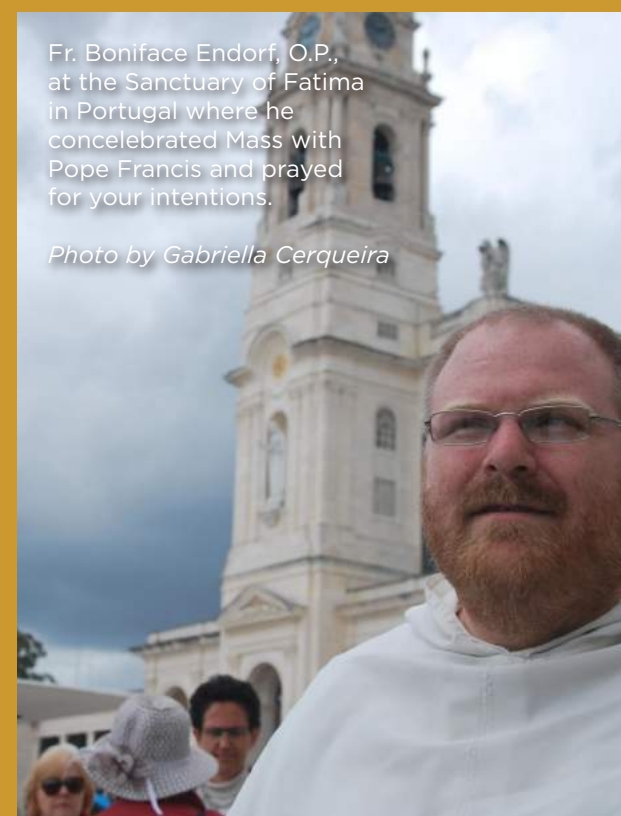


Fr. Thomas More Garrett, O.P. holds a relic of St. John Paul II for veneration by a worshiper during the dedication of a new shrine to St. John Paul II and Our Lady of Fatima in the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer, NYC.

Photo by Guillaume Caron

Fr. Boniface Endorf, O.P., at the Sanctuary of Fatima in Portugal where he concelebrated Mass with Pope Francis and prayed for your intentions.

Photo by Gabriella Cerqueira



FORMING FUTURE PRIESTS TO BRING CHRIST TO THE SICK

By *BlackFriars* staff

Through the Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York, Friars and lay collaborators bring the healing presence of Christ to sick men and women over 60,000 times a year at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical Center, and the Hospital for Special Surgery.



According to Fr. Jonah Pollock, O.P., Director of the Health Care Ministry, “St. Dominic founded the Order of Preachers for the mission of preaching the gospel for the salvation of souls. For me, proclaiming the saving truth and love of Jesus Christ has never borne such immediately evident fruit for salvation of another person than in this ministry.”

Recently, five of the ten men who will be ordained to the priesthood this year at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York – including three Franciscan Friars of the Renewal – have

completed a Health Care Ministry Internship Program with the Dominican Friars, forming them for what will be an integral part of their service to the Catholic Church as priests. The internship program includes an academic component and supervised experience with patients in the Hospital for Special Surgery.

“Something the Dominicans pointed out—which I saw was true in the hospital—is that, when suffering from a physical malady, a person’s other needs rise to the surface. Oftentimes it’s not their body, it’s their spiritual life and their relationships that they are most concerned about and ask us to pray for,” says Br. John Mary Johannssen, C.F.R., a graduate of the internship program who will be ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of New York in May.

Three of the seven Dominican student brothers who will be ordained priests in May are also graduates of the program. “It will be profoundly gratifying for me to impose hands on these eight men during the rites of their ordinations to the priesthood, knowing that, with my brothers at Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York and our outstanding collaborators, I have played a part in preparing them for a ministry that has been so gratifying to me,” says Fr. Pollock.

Your donations make the unique charism of St. Dominic a force for renewal throughout the Catholic Church. Thank you!

From left: Br. John Mary Johannssen, C.F.R., Fr. Jonah Pollock, O.P., Br. Giles Maria Barrie, C.F.R.
Photo by Gabriella Cerqueira

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



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