

Official Publication of the Dominican Friars Foundation



BLACKFRIARS

Dominican student brothers recording their forthcoming Christmas album at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America.

Volume III, Issue IV

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*“This deep Marian peace is
at the heart of all the works
of the Friars that you so
generously support.”*

Every evening the Dominicans sing the Salve Regina (“Hail, Holy Queen”). According to tradition, the Blessed Mother prays for the security of the whole Order as the Friars sing, “Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us.”

Photo by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.
St. Dominic’s Church, Washington, D.C.



Letter from the Director

Dear Friend,

Advent is a time of awaiting the coming of the Lord in stillness and silence. After this tumultuous year in our nation's history, we are especially in need of this stillness and peace. With that in mind, I want to share a story from our Dominican tradition.

Caught up in a vision of heaven, St. Dominic saw the Blessed Mother surrounded by throngs of religious and began weeping. The Lord asked him "Why are you weeping?" Dominic said, "I am weeping because I see all other orders here but there is no sign of my own." At this point, Mary drew back her cape, and beneath it Dominic saw a large multitude of his own brethren. He threw himself down and thanked God and Our Lady.

This deep Marian peace is at the heart of all the works of the Friars that you so generously support. In this issue you will read about our leadership of college missions with organizations like FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) and our Angelic Warfare Confraternity, which is providing hope for thousands of young people struggling with pornography and impurity. You will also hear from one of our long-time donors, who, like every one of you, we consider to be part of our Dominican family.

Finally, in this issue you will read about a matter close to my heart, devotion to Our Lady of Fatima, and how one of our Friars used the gifts God gave him to spread this devotion when it was still little-known in the United States. The Friars are proud

to re-release Fr. Thomas McGlynn's book, *Vision of Fatima*, through Sophia Institute Press and I recommend it to you as a way of deepening your relationship with our Order during the 100th anniversary of Fatima next year.

Action flows from contemplation, and I pray that all of you who so generously support the many actions of the Dominican Friars will share in our joyful contemplation of Our Lord and his Mother this Christmas.

Father Gabriel



Fr. Gabriel Gillen, O.P., blesses relics of St. John Paul II at the Fatima Shrine in St. Vincent Ferrer Church, New York.



Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P. (English Province); Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P.; and Fr. Colm Mannion, O.P. (Irish Province); with United States Naval Academy Catholic Midshipmen who enrolled in the Angelic Warfare Confraternity.



PROMOTING AUTHENTIC SEXUALITY IN A DISORDERED AGE

An interview with Fr. Ambrose Little, O.P.

Founded in the 17th century, the Angelic Warfare Confraternity is an association of the faithful entrusted by the pope to the Dominican Order with the goal of helping its members grow in the virtue of purity. Members wear the cord or medal of St. Thomas Aquinas and commit to pray for one another daily. In our time, the Confraternity has become a powerful weapon against pornography. BlackFriars spoke with Fr. Ambrose Little (pictured above), Promoter of the Angelic Warfare Confraternity for the Province of St. Joseph, which has over 10,000 members, about this battle.

What is the nature of the sexual crisis we are facing today?

The world has been so inundated with pornography that other issues are cropping up around it. It's no longer just a private thing, but can be a source of abuse and relationship issues. For instance, pornography is the leading cause of erectile dysfunction among college-age males and they are no longer attracted to normal women. It's also become a problem for young couples early on in their marriage who may grow apart because one spouse is addicted to pornography.

How can the Angelic Warfare Confraternity help?

Pornography is an addiction for people, and they need grace. The Confraternity offers them a new avenue of grace that's focused on this particular area. For those who aren't struggling with deep sin, the Confraternity helps them continue to resist the temptations of living in a sexually explicit society. Growth in purity means beginning to look upon the world less as a temptation and more as a sign and symbol of the glory of God. What we're really trying to do is fulfill the sixth Beatitude: "Blessed are the pure of heart for they shall see God."

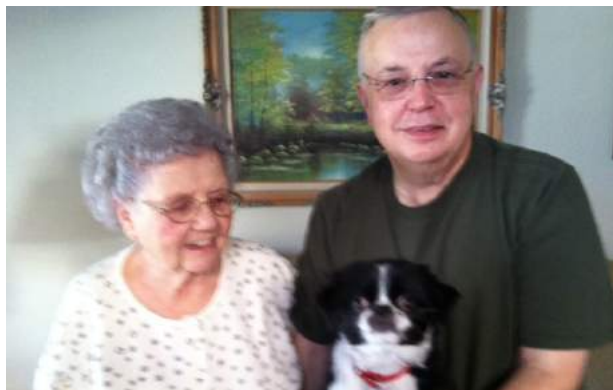
What does the Confraternity offer dating or married Catholics?

A lot of engaged couples fall into a possessive mindset: "We're going to have this great house, we're going to have this great family, and you're going to make *me* really happy." Whereas, if they begin to look upon the world with a pure gaze, the focus becomes how much their relationship is going to bring them closer to God and how, as a couple, they can bring God to their children, friends, and family.

DONOR PROFILE

JOHN GULDAN:

Planning a Legacy of Dominican Vocations



John Guldan with his mother, Ruth, and their dog, Holly.

John Guldan is a retired schoolteacher with degrees in history and theology. He has been a faithful supporter of the Dominican Friars since 2007 and is a member of the St. Dominic Legacy Society. We would like to thank Mr. Guldan—and all our donors—for helping us form priests and brothers capable of bringing the charism of St. Dominic and the wisdom of St. Thomas Aquinas to the Church and the world today.

I was looking for a religious order to support, in a modest way, with small donations. I'm a retired Catholic high school teacher, so I'm not that well-to-do, but I wanted to be part of a Catholic effort that was really going places. That's when I came across the Dominican Friars through an article in the *National Catholic Register* about how vocations were coming straight in through the front door in the Province of St. Joseph.

I did some research and was impressed that the Dominicans have always been one

order without any divisions (I guess that's the historian in me), by their solid Marian piety, and by their balance of action and contemplation. I began donating and included the Dominican Friars Foundation in my will, becoming a St. Dominic Legacy Society member.

I'm grateful that God has given me such a strong connection to the Friars. I can't tell you what a privilege it is. When things in my life go haywire, I always remind myself, 'John, the Friars are praying for you, for Mom, and for your situation right now at the Dominican House of Studies and throughout the Province!'

You can't go wrong in supporting the Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph: They keep you informed, they are specific about where your donation is going, and you will always receive a thank you. Most importantly, you will be supporting young men who are giving their lives to Christ and His Church.

"I'm a retired Catholic high school teacher, so I'm not that well-to-do, but I wanted to be part of a Catholic effort that was really going places."



**Your support
helps the
Friars continue
their fruitful
relationship
with FOCUS!**

DOMINICAN-LED COLLEGE MISSIONS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Fr. Michael Weibley, O.P., was ordained a priest this May. He recently led FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionaries and other college students on a three-week trip to Peru, birthplace of Dominican Saints Martin de Porres and Rose of Lima. BlackFriars sat down with him to discuss this combination mission trip and pilgrimage.

What was your role on the trip?

I served as priest-chaplain for the group, providing spiritual guidance for the FOCUS missionaries and the other college students. As a priest, I was able to offer daily Holy Hour, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and the Sacrament of Confession to the group. I also helped the local pastor in the mountain town of Orurillo by saying Masses in Spanish.

What impact did the trip have on the lives of the student missionaries?

For many of the students, it was an eye-opening experience of the radicality

that the Gospel takes on in different environments. It alerted them to the seriousness of making their relationship with God the most important part of their life. They found joy in spreading the Gospel, whether by painting the chapel at the center of town, catechizing children, encouraging people to return to the sacraments, or talking directly with them about Christ.

Can you tell us about the pilgrimage aspect of the trip?

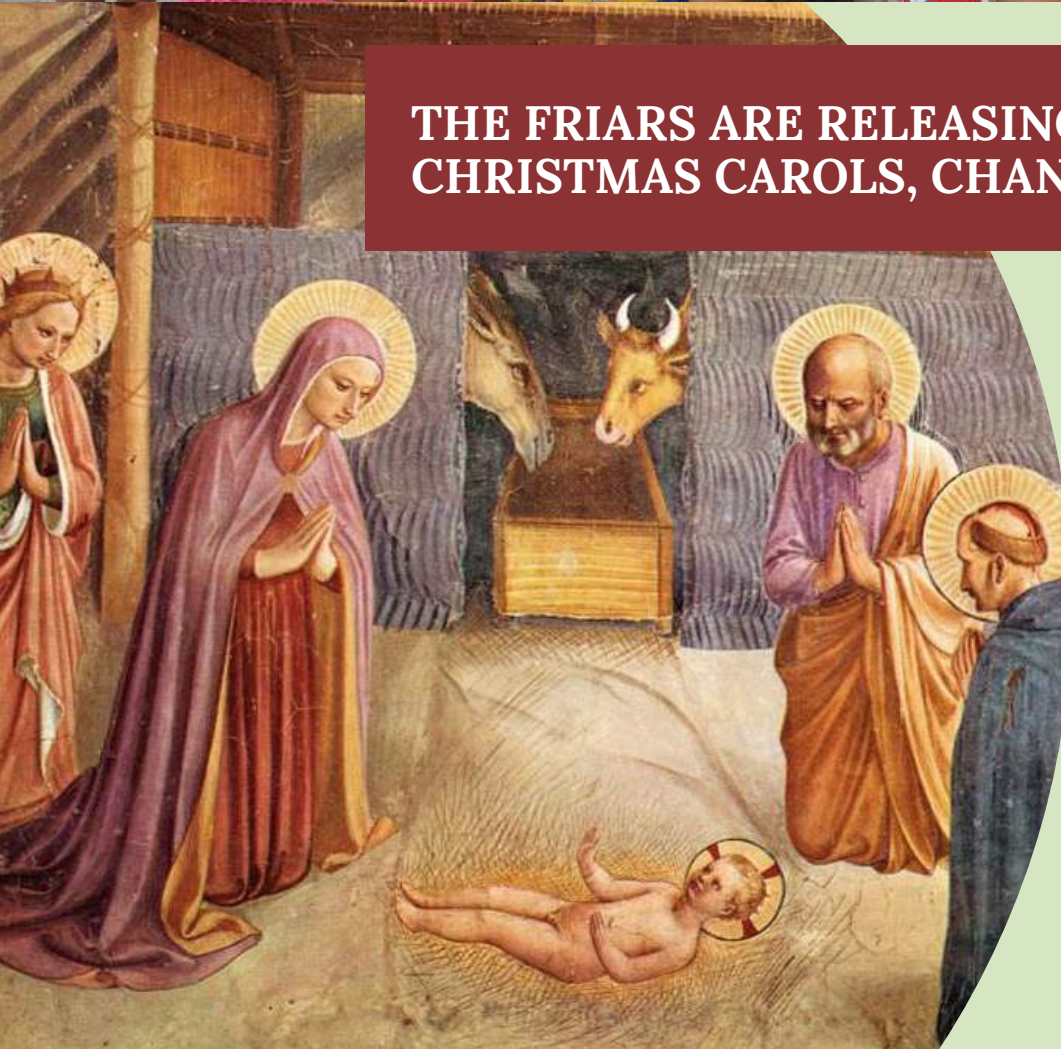
It was beautiful for me as a Dominican to lead a pilgrimage to Dominican churches and priories that have been there since the early fifteen hundreds, to walk in places where our Dominican brothers and sisters have walked for centuries, and to venerate the relics of St. Martin de Porres and St. Rose of Lima at their tombs. I also had the privilege of celebrating Mass at the Basilica of Santa Rosa in Lima. It was a great way to share the Dominican charism with the students.



Fr. Athanasius Murphy, also ordained this past May, led Brazilian and American college students on a three-week missions trip to poor and rural communities in northern Brazil. "In both the urban and rural areas we would visit families and bring the sacraments to groups of people who may not have seen a priest in their area in at least a year if not longer," he says.

Read Fr. Murphy's reflection on this trip at opeast.org/rio-2016-the-evangelization-olympics

THE FRIARS ARE RELEASING A NEW ALBUM OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS, CHANTS, AND HYMNS!



CHRIST WAS BORN TO SAVE:
Christmas with the Dominican Friars

Contact the Dominican Friars Foundation to purchase a CD or have a free music video delivered to your inbox.



THE SCULPTOR- PRIEST OF FATIMA

By Fr. Hugh Vincent Dyer, O.P.

Fatima has been present in my imagination for nearly as long as I can remember. I grew up in Albany, New York, in the 1980s. Albany is the place where Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., began his apostolate of the Family Rosary Crusade. He had two great sayings: "The family that prays together stays together" and "A world at prayer is a world at peace". That prayer is the rosary. In my neighborhood, there was a woman of faith, Mrs. Giminiani, who promoted the message of Fatima and encouraged others to pray the rosary for conversion.

Last year I found an out-of-print book on Marian apparitions, which referenced a rare book entitled *Vision of Fatima* by our own Fr. Thomas McGlynn, O.P., I called the Dominican House of Studies librarian, Fr. John Martin Ruiz, O.P., to track down a copy of McGlynn's book on Fatima, I also asked him to read it. We both read the book with delight: therein McGlynn recounts his encounter with and privileged access to the last surviving visionary, Sr. Lucia, and how she gave direction as he sculpted Our Lady of Fatima. His statue stands, centered, above the entrance to the basilica at Fatima, where it is seen by hundreds of thousands of pilgrims every year.

The book *Vision of Fatima* is more than an enjoyable travelogue. Fr. McGlynn reminds us that Fatima, like Cana, is a place of miracles. He also points us to the penitential character of Mary's message. Penance seeks justice and communion with Jesus crucified. The prayer of the rosary is a prayer whereby we grow in the virtues of Mary's contemplative heart. Fatima has long been a motivator to prayer, and Fr. McGlynn's work aids this motivation. His book is again a gift to Our Lady of Fatima in this centennial year of the apparitions.

***Vision of Fatima* will be published in April by Sophia Institute Press and is available for preorder on Amazon.**



Photograph taken by Fr. Thomas McGlynn, O.P., of Sr. Lucia posing with his prototype for the Fatima sculpture. Used with permission of the Thomas McGlynn Collection, Providence College, Providence, RI 02918-0001.

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