

The Newsletter of the Dominican Friars Foundation



BLACKFRIARS



Fr. Hyacinth Grubb, O.P., was ordained under quarantine apart from his brothers by the Most Reverend Edmund Whalen, Auxiliary Bishop of New York, at the Church of Saint Vincent Ferrer. Pictured with his parents.

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Volume VII, Issue II

A religious painting of Christ and St. Dominic. Christ is on the right, with long wavy hair and a beard, wearing a red robe. St. Dominic is on the left, with short curly hair, wearing a grey habit with a black collar and a star on his forehead. He has his hands clasped in prayer. The background is a golden sunburst. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent blue overlay.

“ Thank you for making
this day possible. It is your
goodness that we celebrate. ”

Alter Christus

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



Letter from the Director *Dear Friends,*

Where is God in the midst of suffering? One sign of God's presence is the Ordination (in three separate ceremonies due to Coronavirus precautions) of eight Dominican Friars you helped prepare for the priesthood.

The Sacred Heart linking Christ to His priests is a popular symbol of the Catholic priesthood. In the rite of Ordination, the phrase "alter Christus," reminds us that, although Christ Himself is present to His Church, the priest acts as "another Christ."

During the Ordination Mass of Fr. Hyacinth Grubb, O.P., at the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer in Manhattan, Bishop Edmund Walsh's opening remarks spoke beautifully to this reality: "It is with great joy in the midst of a difficult time that we have this sign of hope."

As an "alter Christus," Father Hyacinth was immediately assigned to serve in the heart of the Coronavirus epidemic as a hospital chaplain in New York City. Many patients are lonely and anxious. Some have lost loved ones to this virus. All of them have questions. It is because of your support that Father Hyacinth, after his many years of formation, is now a living "sign of hope" to this flock. It is because of you that all our newly ordained priests are now on the front lines of spiritual battle, bringing sanctifying grace to so many souls in need of healing.

I had the opportunity to speak with Bishop Walsh right before the Ordination Mass. When I mentioned that I serve in the work of advancement for the Province, he immediately asked me to extend his gratitude to you for your support of the Dominican Friars. I was very touched by his thoughtfulness,

and if you watch the video (dominicanfriars.org/hyacinth-ordination) you'll hear him address you at the very beginning of the Mass: "Thank you for making this day possible. It is your goodness that we celebrate."

In addition to my gratitude for these eight men who serve the Church as priests, I'm thankful that Bro. Martin Davis, O.P., will join me here at the Dominican Friars Foundation. Brother Martin was born in Georgia, but spent most of his time growing up near Monroe, Michigan. He attended Hillsdale College where he received a Bachelor of Science in Financial Management. At Hillsdale he converted to the Catholic faith. After a couple of years working as a financial analyst, he entered the Order of Preachers and has just finished all his studies.

Please pray for Brother Martin and our newly ordained priests, and be assured that we are keeping you and your loved ones in prayer as well.

Yours in Christ,

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

To watch a video of the ordination of
Fr. Hyacinth Grubb, O.P., visit
dominicanfriars.org/hyacinth-ordination



DOMINICANS BRACE FOR AFTERMATH OF COVID-19

By Elise Ann Allen

Originally appeared in *Crux* as “Around the World Religious Orders Brace for Aftermath of Covid 19.”
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For Dominicans in the Province of Saint Joseph in the United States, the return to normal life will look different depending on which state they are in, and their priorities will depend on the specific tasks they are entrusted with.

Father Jacob Bertrand Janczyk, O.P., vocations director for the Province of Saint Joseph, told *Crux* that “Our priority is always service to the Church,” and that even during a pandemic, men still show up to join the order and to give their lives to God.

Pointing to the Dominican motto, “preaching for the salvation of souls,” Janczyk insisted that “the mission of the Order carries on,” and that he personally is trying to find

ways to help young men who wish to enter go through the process in the safest and healthiest way possible.

Part of the discernment process for potential new novices is getting to know Saint Dominic and the Order through reading essential texts, which is still possible, Janczyk said, but the other half of it, getting to know the community by spending time with members on weekends and during visits, is currently off the table.

“There’s a new life, and there’s going to be a new breath of the Holy Spirit in all that we do.”

“For 800 years, Dominican friars have lived a life of contemplation and study for the sake of preaching the Gospel. The fundamental parts of our life do not change, and this is something that we try to impress on men when they are looking at the Order.”

“For 800 years, Dominican friars have lived a life of contemplation and study for the sake of preaching the Gospel. The fundamental parts of our life do not change, and this is something that we try to impress on men when they are looking at the Order,” he said. “We believe that our faithfulness to the life is attractive in itself, perhaps especially during this time.”

Dominican Father Joseph-Anthony Kress, O.P., chaplain at St. Thomas Aquinas University Parish in Charlottesville, Virginia, told *Crux* that life dramatically changed for students when the coronavirus hit.

“We had a major tectonic shift in our ministry. All our students went away for spring break, and never came back,” he said, calling the process of reevaluating what to do, “a very big shock.”

Almost overnight, they went from in-person ministry to online bible studies, reflection nights, group hangout sessions and one-on-one check-ins using Zoom and Facetime.

On the whole, Kress said the students “are very much more engaged” than they were before, and some who were unable to attend in-person bible studies due to class schedules are now able to participate in the virtual discussions.

“Our student leaders have done a phenomenal job of understanding the weight of the shift from in person ministry to virtual ministry and the demands that places on them. They’ve done a phenomenal job of balancing their course load while still creating opportunities for our students to engage,” he said.

With much of the immediate future still uncertain, Kress said the plan for now is to continue the same online outreach they have been doing during the lockdowns, and to brainstorm on how to engage new students

when the fall semester comes, with different plans depending on whether the semester will be virtual, in-person, or a mix of the two.

“It’s a trying time, it’s a struggle, but I think that our Church will be able to live in the resurrection in a new and beautiful way once we return back,” he said, adding that in his experience, “There’s a new life, and there’s going to be a new breath of the Holy Spirit in all that we do.”

Kress said he believes the coronavirus has helped the Church to grow in ways that it might not have otherwise.

“I don’t think we lost anything. I think we’re going to gain one hundredfold,” he said. “We just have to be attentive to where the Spirit is leading us, and throw up our sails and allow the breath and the wind of the Holy Spirit to carry us into new shores...I think we’re going to gain a tremendous amount as long as we continue to trust and follow Him.”



Fr. Joseph-Anthony Kress, O.P. (center), holds a monstrance at World Youth Day in Krakow.



EIGHT DOMINICANS ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD IN THREE SEPARATE CEREMONIES

On Saturday, May 23, eight friars were ordained priests of Jesus Christ. Coronavirus measures necessitated three separate ceremonies at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, DC, the chapel of Providence College, and the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer in Manhattan. Only the parents of the ordinandi were permitted to attend. *Thank YOU for supporting these men on their journey to the priesthood!*

TOP: (From left:) Frs. Ambrose Arralde, O.P., Ephrem Reese, O.P., Anthony VanBerkum, O.P. Irenaeus Dunlevy, O.P., Justin Bolger, O.P., and Jonah Teller, O.P., were ordained by the Most Reverend Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Washington, DC, at the Dominican House of Studies.

BOTTOM: Fr. Hyacinth Grubb, O.P. (left), was ordained to the priesthood by the Most Reverend Edmund Whalen, Auxiliary Bishop of New York, at the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer.



Fr. Jordan Zajac, O.P., was ordained to the priesthood by the Most Reverend Robert Evans, Auxiliary Bishop of Providence, in the chapel of Providence College.





LETTER FROM THE PRIOR PROVINCIAL

Dear Friends,

I would like to share with you these verses from Psalm 18 that we Dominicans pray in the Divine Office.

**He made the darkness his covering,
the dark waters of the clouds his tent
... From on high he reached down and
seized me he drew me up from the
mighty waters.** (verses 12 and 17)

This psalm helps me to see this COVID-19 period with the eyes of faith: that however dark the cloud or rough the waters, because of Jesus "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

This light shone in a special way on May 23 when eight of our friars were ordained to the priesthood of Jesus Christ. The pandemic made this a historic ordination because it happened in three East coast cities simultaneously: Washington, DC (Dominican House of Studies), New York City (Church of St. Vincent Ferrer) and Providence, Rhode Island (Providence College). We believe that God is everywhere, and our trinitarian ordinations remind us that he is with us and draws us up from the mighty waters.

Our ordinations had a simplicity about them because of the restrictions on public gatherings. This was so difficult for the family and friends of our new priests who were not able to personally attend. Let me suggest a significance for this sacrifice. Their ordination ceremony conforms them symbolically to Jesus Christ, who was born in a stable, lived in Nazareth, had nowhere to lay his head and was crucified outside the city gates. Because he emptied himself to come among us, he is the Good Shepherd who leads us through all the dark valleys of life.

This is true for our eight new priests. They are called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, to draw His people up from the raging waters, to lead them through dark valleys, to manifest His light in their preaching, pastoral care and celebration of the sacraments. Please pray for them, and see in their ordinations the unmistakable sign of Jesus Christ who promised: "I am with you always, to the close of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Come, Lord Jesus!

Very Rev. Kenneth R. Letoile, O.P.

Very Rev. Kenneth R. Letoile, O.P.
Prior Provincial

Did you know the recently enacted CARES Act may affect you and your charitable goals?

Here's how:

- **Non-Itemizers Can Reduce Their Taxable Income by \$300**
- **Itemizers' Cash Contributions Can Be Deducted Up to 100% of AGI**
- **RMDs Are Waived for 2020 and QCDs Are Still a Great Way to Donate**

Please visit DominicanFriars.org/cares-act or, to receive more information by mail, contact: Diana Kilarjian at Diana.Kilarjian@DominicanFriars.org or 646-350-0108.



FRIARS SERVING IN HEALTHCARE QUARANTINE TO PROTECT VULNERABLE FLOCK

By *BlackFriars* staff

On March 7, four Dominican friars who serve hospitals and a nursing home on Manhattan's Upper East Side entered quarantine for the safety of those in their care. Fr. Jonah Pollock, O.P., Fr. John Devaney, O.P., and Fr. David Adiletta, O.P., continue to minister to the sick in hospitals by day while residing in isolation from one another and the general public in St. Catherine's Priory by night. Fr. Hugh Vincent Dyer, O.P., took up residence in the Catholic nursing home where he serves as chaplain.

"We took this decision ahead of the state or the city. We were ahead of the curve on realizing just how vulnerable folks in the nursing home are," says Fr. Hugh Vincent, who celebrates Mass in the home's chapel and offers a series of talks on art and literature for the residents over closed-circuit television.

Despite the pandemic and the chronic conditions of those in the nursing home, Fr. Hugh Vincent seeks to provide a joyful and culturally broad witness. "We still live a life here that takes delight in good things—in the liturgy and also in literature and history and art," he says.

According to Fr. Hugh Vincent, the residents are able to draw strength from past experiences of hardship. "I had people tell me how they had survived polio. A number of people



Fr. Hugh Vincent Dyer, O.P. Photo by Devin Oktar Yalkin. Used with permission

spoke of the Depression, or the War, or 9/11, or Hurricane Sandy. I've asked them to pray for their grandchildren and for younger people who have never weathered a serious crisis—they are the ones who have difficulty facing something that changes life in significant ways."

As lockdown measures lessen, Fr. Hugh Vincent plans to maintain the programs put in place during the pandemic. "I would continue to animate the culture of the place with the riches of our tradition. People have come to appreciate and expect these things."

"I had people tell me how they had survived polio. A number of people spoke of the Depression, or the War, or 9/11, or Hurricane Sandy. I've asked them to pray for their grandchildren and for younger people who have never weathered a serious crisis—they are the ones who have difficulty facing something that changes life in significant ways."

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