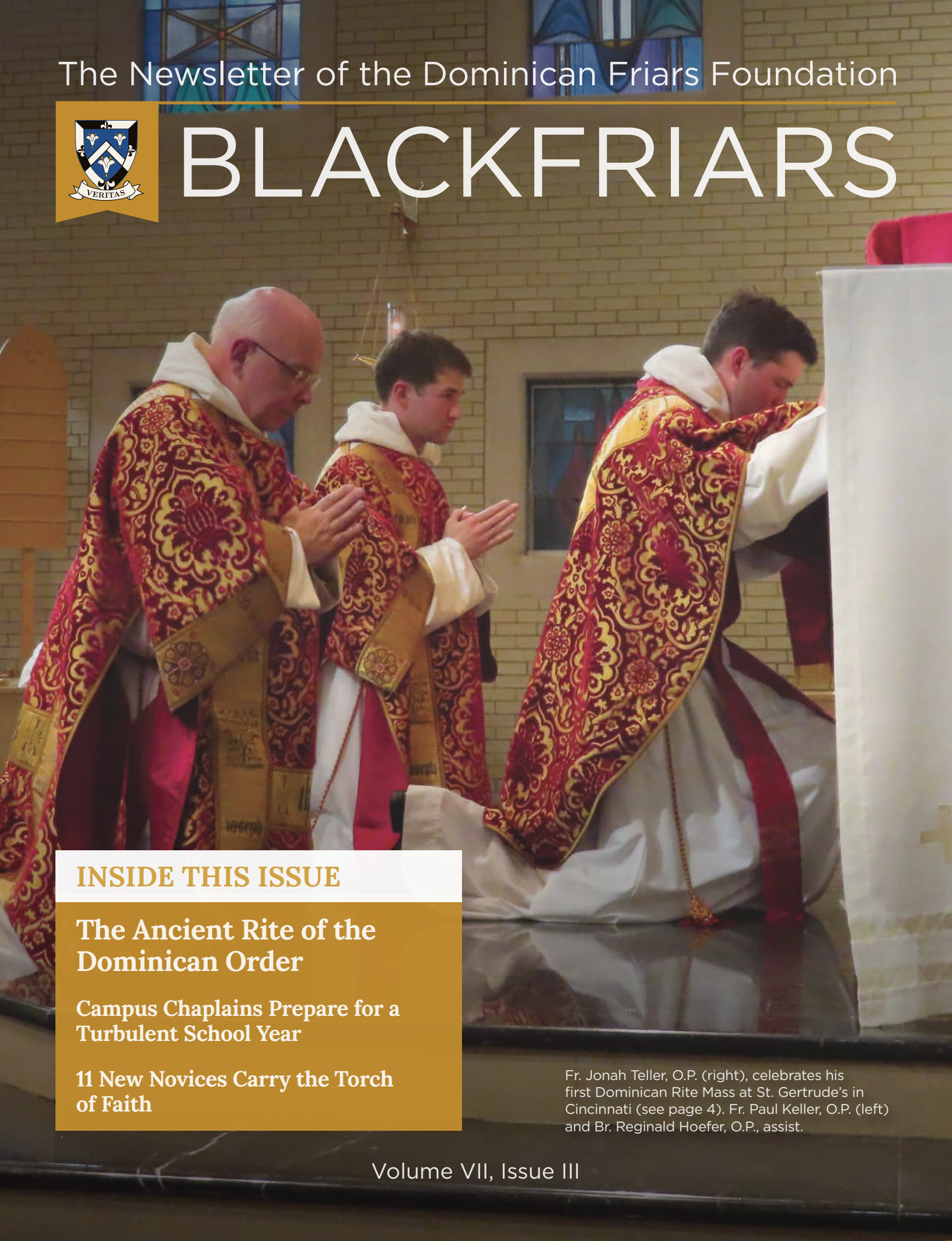


The Newsletter of the Dominican Friars Foundation



# BLACKFRIARS



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Fr. Jonah Teller, O.P. (right), celebrates his first Dominican Rite Mass at St. Gertrude's in Cincinnati (see page 4). Fr. Paul Keller, O.P. (left) and Br. Reginald Hoefler, O.P., assist.





“Thank you for joining our ranks of joyful warriors who protect our fellow citizens at all stages of life.”

***Death of St. Dominic***

Just before his death on August 6, 1221 Dominic called first all the novices around him and then the oldest members of the Order, to whom he gave his last testament: “Have charity in your hearts,” he said. “Practice humility after the example of Jesus Christ, and make your treasure and riches out of voluntary poverty. You know that to serve God is to reign; but you must first serve Him in love and with a whole heart. It is only by a holy life and fidelity to your rule, that you can do honor to your profession.”

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



## Letter from the Director *Dear Friends,*

As Ronald Reagan was rolled into surgery after being shot, he joked to the team of surgeons, “I just hope you’re Republicans;” to which one doctor replied, “Today, Mr. President, we’re all Republicans.” That’s how Americans respond when a life is in danger: we unite. That year, comedian Eddie Murphy also added levity to a horrible moment, saying, “They shot the Pope. What’s your intention in shooting the Pope unless you’re saying, ‘I want to get to hell and I don’t want to stand in line!’”

Sinners and saints alike know there’s a line you don’t cross. That’s why St. John Paul II met with his would-be assassin to forgive him. Every good Samaritan knows the call to rescue a life in danger of death, but, as Catholics, we are called to offer sacrifices, even our lives, to save souls in danger of the fires of hell. In this issue, you’ll read about Dominican Friars who are willing to do just that, and the new novices following in their steps.

I had the honor of participating in the presidential swearing-in ceremony of Dr. Joan Breton Connelly (see photo), appointed to the State Department’s Cultural Property Advisory Committee. Joan teaches classics at NYU and is encouraged by the friars serving on college campuses.

Another friend of the Friars, a parishioner, spoke with me about the experience of serving on a medical team in Haiti with Sister Deirdre Byrne. Dede joined the army as a med student at Georgetown to help pay her tuition and ended up devoting 29 years to the military as a surgeon in places like Afghanistan and Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula. She entered religious life in 2002, working with the poor and sick in Haiti, Sudan, Kenya, Iraq, and undocumented people in Washington, DC.

According to Sister Dede, “Those refugees all share a common experience. They have all been marginalized, viewed as



Fr. Gabriel Gillen, O.P., participates in the swearing-in of Dr. Joan Breton Connelly to the State Department’s Cultural Property Advisory Committee.

insignificant, powerless and voiceless. While we tend to think of the marginalized as living beyond our borders, the truth is the largest marginalized group in the world can be found here in the United States. They are the unborn.”

Sister knows her message may be difficult for some; she persists because she is not just pro-life, she is pro-eternal life. “I want all of us to end up in heaven together someday.” This is our mission, too, as Friars Preachers: preaching for the salvation of souls.

Thank you for joining our ranks of joyful warriors who protect our fellow citizens at all stages of life. May we end up on the express line to heaven and praise God forever!

Yours in Christ,

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



Fr. Jonah Teller, O.P. (right), processes to the altar while celebrating his first Dominican Rite Mass.



## THE ANCIENT RITE OF THE DOMINICAN ORDER

By Fr. Patrick Briscoe, O.P.

On the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, one of our newly-ordained priests, Fr. Jonah Teller, O.P., celebrated Solemn High Mass in the Dominican Rite for the first time at St. Gertrude's Church in Cincinnati. Fr. Jonah grew up coming to St. Gertrude's, and that was where he met the Dominicans and found his vocation.

### What is the Dominican Rite?

For those who are familiar with the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, the Dominican Rite is its "cousin," so to speak. It was the liturgy used by the Order of Preachers from the mid-13th century until the liturgical changes following the Second Vatican Council. In the tenth century, the Roman way of celebrating the Mass began to be the liturgical

norm for Western Europe. But because of the difficulties of communication back then, this "Roman Rite," though ostensibly used throughout all of Europe, was not uniformly executed. Thus, various regions practiced their own variations of this one rite.

When St. Dominic founded his Order of Preachers in 1216, there was a need to have a standard way of celebrating the Mass and Divine Office within the Order, since the friars were very quickly spread out across Europe. The result was the Dominican Rite as we know it today, codified in the 1250's by St. Dominic's successor, Bl. Humbert of Romans.

### Some Unique Aspects of the Dominican Rite

You may notice some differences in the Dominican and Roman Rites – particularly the

The priest, deacon and subdeacon positioned on the steps of the high altar during the Eucharistic Prayer.



activity of the deacon, subdeacon, and acolytes. Their roles are significantly augmented in the Dominican Rite, as compared to the Roman, in order to minimize the amount of tasks to which the priest celebrant needs to attend. The point is to preserve an atmosphere of contemplation for the priest—his job is to keep his mind on God and his heart in communion with God, and so to offer the Divine Sacrifice all the more worthily on behalf of the whole Church. One example of this is the way the deacon and subdeacon prepare the chalice and altar while the priest is sitting down, bringing the various instruments to him to receive his blessing.

You will also notice how the Dominican Rite subtly adopts the charismatic spirit of St. Dominic in his use of bodily postures

during prayer. For instance, immediately after the consecration of the chalice, the priest extends his arms in the position of the crucifix, praying on behalf of all the people present, in front of the Body and Blood of Christ that he has just consecrated.

### **An 800 Year Tradition**

All of these features, which pertain to the rich 800-year old history of the Dominican Order, were on display at St. Gertrude's in Cincinnati. God was worshipped and His people contemplated Him with attentive minds and loving hearts, disposed by these ancient ceremonies. We congratulate Fr. Jonah and his seven classmates ordained priests of Jesus Christ on May 22, 2020!

## **Make a Gift from your Donor Advised Fund and Make a Difference!**

**Many donors are making gifts from their Donor Advised Funds to support the Dominican Friars without straining their finances. You can help the Friars to restore virtue and Gospel values and build up a Culture of Life by simply contacting your fund provider and recommending a grant to the Dominican Friars Foundation.**

For more information, contact our planned giving specialist, **Diana Kilarjian**, at **646-350-0108** or **diana.kilarjian@dominicanfriars.org**.





# DOMINICAN CAMPUS CHAPLAIN PREPARES FOR A TURBULENT SCHOOL YEAR

Fr. John Paul Kern, O.P., is pictured with FOCUS missionaries in Louisville, Kentucky.



**Fr. John Paul Kern, O.P., is the University of Louisville Catholic chaplain. After converting to Catholicism at Penn State, Fr. John Paul worked as a reactor inspector for the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission before joining the Dominicans.**

**What is your hope for Catholic students resuming their studies during this uncertain time?**

I'd like to offer them a community that's unified in love through Jesus Christ. We've all heard the slogan, "no justice, no peace." It's true in a sense, and it motivates us to work for justice as we should, but there is no perfect justice in the world. While we're working towards justice, the love of Christ unites us in community so that we can be at peace, forgive one another, and show mercy as well as seeking justice.

**What does the Dominican charism bring to campuses?**

There's a mob mentality going around in which people try to put pressure on those who don't agree with them instead of listening and debating principles. Many people buckle under that pressure and aren't courageous in speaking the truth. As Dominicans, we're trained as preachers, and we do speak the truth. Yet, we speak the truth according to

the highest principles, by the light of the faith, and not according to a merely political lens or ideological fad.

**How would you address the concerns of Catholic parents and grandparents of students on secular campuses?**

There is real reason to be praying hard for your children. Many college campuses are corrosive environments to the faith. In addition to the usual temptations for young people, many fields of education are presented through an ideological lens that is hostile towards Christianity.

At the same time, God does desire the salvation and well being of your children even more than you do; and He is also on campus. College is a time when people search and experiment with things that look like they will bring happiness but don't offer true fulfillment. In that time of searching, however, God is seeking them even more than they are seeking happiness.

**Thanks to YOUR support, the Dominican Friars are bringing the Truth—according to the highest principles—to over 50 campuses nationwide!**



# 11 NEW NOVICES CARRY THE TORCH OF FAITH

On August 8, the feast of St. Dominic, these 11 men were clothed with his habit. Please keep them in your prayers.

Your support is essential to form these men as Dominican Friars equipped to bring the Word of God to the public square.



## LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Each generation of Catholics must pass on to the next generation the truths preached by the apostles and their successors, which have their roots in Jesus Christ Himself. While certain aspects of the life of the Church and the cultures she encounters can legitimately develop over time, there are core truths of faith and morality that do not change.

When Catholics say that core truths of faith and morality remain the same, it's not because we are beholden to some ideology or are merely worried about the preservation of certain institutions. These truths remain the same either because they are deeply rooted in reason and human nature, they have been revealed by God, or both.

A little over six years ago, I came to the novitiate of the Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph, in part, because I saw in the friars a desire to pass on those truths

that do not change, to draw out their implications, and to showcase their beauty and relevance in our current age.

Despite, and perhaps because of, the many difficulties our society faces, many men are continuing to join the Dominicans to preach the truths that do not change and to lovingly accompany those we encounter with the help of God's grace.

I pray that God will continue to bless us with vocations, the generous support of benefactors like you, and most importantly, the grace to fulfill the task for which we have been appointed.

In Christ and St. Dominic,

Brother Martin Davis, O.P.  
Associate Executive Director

## FR. GARRIGOU-LAGRANGE ON THE ROSARY

From *The Mother of the Savior and Our Interior Life*

**The French Dominican Fr. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrangé, O.P., was a leading 20th Century Thomist who directed the doctoral dissertation of the future Pope St. John Paul II. His thought and piety remain influential throughout the Dominican Order and the Church.**

*“[The Rosary] takes us from our meaningless fears, from the sufferings we bear so badly, and reminds us of how much Jesus has suffered for love of us and teaches us to follow Him by bearing the cross which divine providence has sent us to purify us.”*

The Rosary is a Credo: not an abstract one, but one concretized in the life of Jesus Who came down to us from the Father and Who ascended to bring us back with Himself to the Father. It is the whole of Christian dogma in all its splendor and elevation, brought to us that we may fill our minds with it, that we may relish it and nourish our souls with it.

This makes the Rosary a true school of contemplation. Early theologians have compared the movement of the soul in contemplation to the spiral in which certain birds—the swallow, for example—move when they wish to attain to a great height. The joyful mysteries lead to the Passion, and the Passion to the door of heaven. The Rosary well understood is, therefore, a very elevated form of prayer which makes the whole of dogma accessible to all.



Photo by Martin Jernberg

It takes us from the midst of our too human interests and joys and makes us think of those which center on the coming of the Savior. It takes us from our meaningless fears, from the sufferings we bear so badly, and reminds us of how much Jesus has suffered for love of us and teaches us to follow Him by bearing the cross which divine providence has sent us to purify us. It takes us finally from our earthly hopes and ambitions and makes us think of the true object of Christian hope—eternal life and the graces necessary to arrive there.

The Rosary is more than a prayer of petition. It is a prayer of adoration inspired by the thought of the Incarnate God, a prayer of reparation in memory of the Passion of Our Savior, a prayer of thanksgiving that the glorious mysteries continue to reproduce themselves in the uninterrupted entry of the elect into glory.

**The Dominican Friars pray the Holy Rosary daily for you and all our donors!**

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