

The Newsletter of the Dominican Friars Foundation



# BLACKFRIARS



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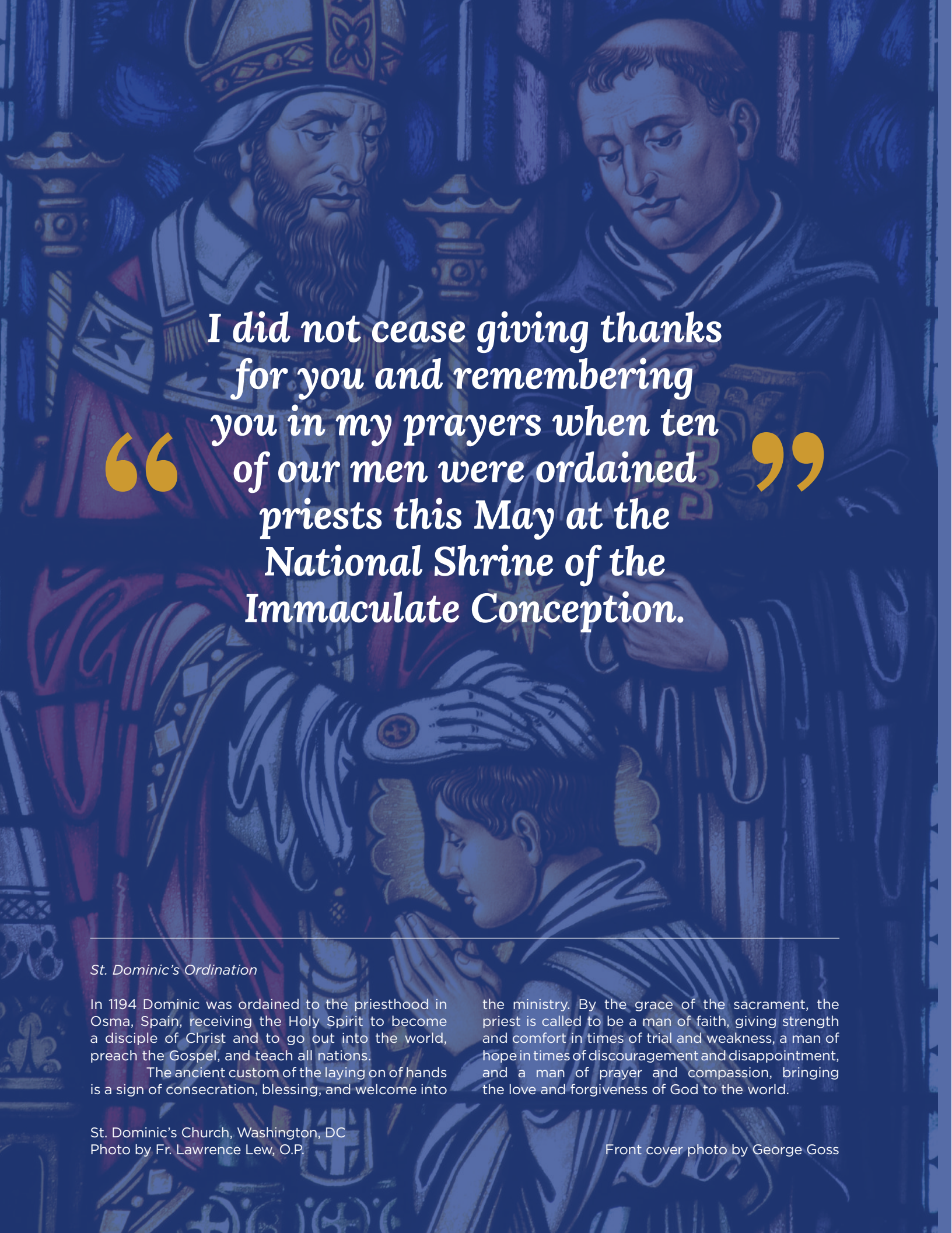
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Fr. John Paul Kern, O.P. (left), and Fr. Joseph Martin Hagan, O.P., will be chaplains at Catholic University of America, where the Dominican Province of St. Joseph has assumed responsibility for campus ministry.

Volume IX, Issue II





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*St. Dominic's Ordination*

In 1194 Dominic was ordained to the priesthood in Osma, Spain, receiving the Holy Spirit to become a disciple of Christ and to go out into the world, preach the Gospel, and teach all nations.

The ancient custom of the laying on of hands is a sign of consecration, blessing, and welcome into

the ministry. By the grace of the sacrament, the priest is called to be a man of faith, giving strength and comfort in times of trial and weakness, a man of hope in times of discouragement and disappointment, and a man of prayer and compassion, bringing the love and forgiveness of God to the world.



## A Special Farewell Letter from the Director *Dear Friends,*

Though few are willing to talk about it, the Church is experiencing a great famine of vocations. Last year in the United States, 38 dioceses ordained zero men to the priesthood. In the Dominican Province of St. Joseph, however, there is hope—and you are part of it. I did not cease giving thanks for you and remembering you in my prayers when ten of our men were ordained priests this May at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Jesus Christ was born an infant Who needed to be fed. Just as the people of Egypt sought food from the Old Testament Joseph, the guardian of Pharaoh's household, so Jesus goes to St. Joseph, whom God set over His own household, to receive the necessities of earthly life. During the rite of ordination, the phrase "*alter Christus*" is used to remind us that the priest acts as "another Christ" by virtue of the sacrament of Holy Orders. By providing for these men during their years of preparation, you acted as an *alter Josephus*, another St. Joseph.

The friars you have helped form will go out to preach for the salvation of souls and the renewal of the culture. As chaplains, lecturers, and itinerant preachers, we have a presence at 75 universities across America. Another 40 schools have extended invitations. Our men have been called to Rome to train the seminarians who will become America's next generation of diocesan priests: they teach liturgy and preaching at the North American College, and Theology and Philosophy at the Angelicum.

This momentum is a gift from God, and we want to steward it well. That is why, like Joseph in Egypt, we are preparing for periods

of uncertainty by building a student brother scholarship fund composed of bequests from generous donors.

At present, the fund is large enough to cover seven brothers per year, but, with over 50 men in formation and another 12 entering the novitiate in August, our long-term goal is to provide at least 25 scholarships.

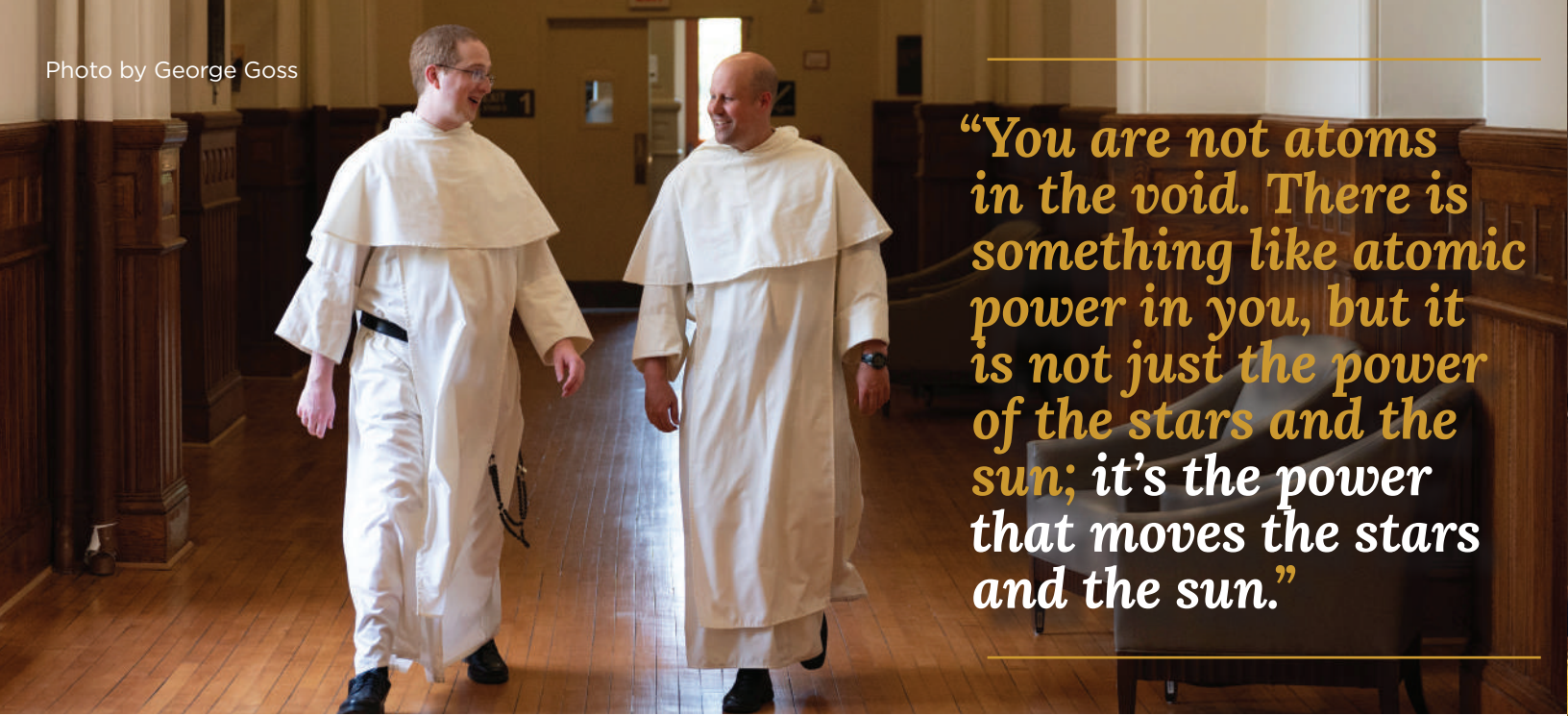
As I conclude my ten-year term as Executive Director of the Dominican Friars Foundation, I thank you for being "another Joseph" to our priests. If you have not yet considered a gift in your will to the Dominican Friars, I invite you to do so by contacting [plannedgiving@dominicanfriars.org](mailto:plannedgiving@dominicanfriars.org) or using the enclosed envelope to request more information.

As another friar takes the helm of the Foundation, I will begin serving as National Chaplain for the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), which trains young adults to share the Gospel on hundreds of college campuses across the country and abroad.

May God continue to bless you and your loved ones through the prayers of the Blessed Mother and all the Dominican saints.

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





**“You are not atoms in the void. There is something like atomic power in you, but it is not just the power of the stars and the sun; it’s the power that moves the stars and the sun.”**

## **DOMINICAN FRIARS TAKE ON CAMPUS MINISTRY AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA**

By *BlackFriars Staff*

After months of searching for the next leaders of campus ministry at Catholic University of America, a committee formed by CUA president John Garvey selected the Dominican Friars for the job.

“The Dominicans bring with them a rich heritage of scholarship and spiritual guidance, and as our neighbors they are well acquainted with the University and its mission,” said Garvey upon announcing the decision.

The search committee considered eight groups, a mix of religious orders and other Catholic organizations, before deciding on the Dominican Friars.

Fr. Joseph Hagan, O.P., and Fr. John Paul Kern, O.P., were appointed chaplains, with two additional friars expected to be appointed in June.

According to Fr. Kern, who previously served as chaplain at the University of Louisville, the Dominicans bring to the ministry “a strong desire for the salvation of souls, reliance upon God’s grace, and an appreciation for the Catholic intellectual tradition, which understands the light of faith as assisting and elevating reason’s

pursuit of the truth about God and all created things.”

A harbinger of things to come, Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P., delivered CUA’s 2022 commencement address. Fr. White, Rector Magnificus of the Angelicum, the Dominican university in Rome, told CUA graduates, “You are not atoms in the void. There is something like atomic power in you, but it is not just the power of the stars and the sun; it’s the power that moves the stars and the sun; it’s that mysterious power of dynamic persons who are free, creative, and intellectual.”



When asked about the greatest need of today’s college students, Fr. Kern replied, “To know their true identity as beloved sons and daughters of God, which they discover in coming to know Jesus Christ.”

**Your support helps form friars capable of reaching today’s college students through the unity of Faith and Reason!**



## THANKS BE TO GOD FOR TEN NEW PRIESTS OF JESUS CHRIST!

These are the priests your generosity has helped form over the past seven years to serve God and preach His Gospel to the Church and the world. Please keep them in your prayers as they go out into the harvest: (from left) Fr. Bernard Knapke, O.P., Fr.

Luke VanBerkum, O.P., Fr. Paul Marich, O.P., Fr. Damian Day, O.P., Fr. Philip Nolan, O.P., Fr. Pachomius Walker, O.P., Fr. Maximilian Jaskowak, O.P., Fr. James Ritch, O.P., Fr. Bartholomew Calvano, O.P., Fr. Albert Dempsey, O.P.

## WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Ensure that the Gospel is preached to future generations! Become a member of the St. Dominic Legacy Society by leaving a gift to the Dominican Friars in your will.

Contact our **Office of Planned Giving** to learn more:

**Phone:** 646-350-0108

**Email:** [plannedgiving@dominicanfriars.org](mailto:plannedgiving@dominicanfriars.org)

**Web:** [dominicanfriars.org/legacy-society](http://dominicanfriars.org/legacy-society)







## THE UNDERVALUED VIRTUE OUR WORLD BADLY NEEDS

By Theresa Civantos Barber. This article originally appeared in *Aleteia* and is reprinted with permission.

**If there's one virtue that's overdue for a revival in today's world, it's prudence. At least that's what Father Gregory Pine, O.P., has discovered in his work as a scholar and pastor. Father Pine is doing his part to encourage a renaissance of prudence. His new book, *Prudence: Choose Confidently, Live Boldly* is dedicated to sharing and spreading this "undervalued" virtue.**

### What inspired you to write a book about prudence?

I was inspired to write a book about prudence because I found myself talking about it often. Prudence is undervalued as a virtue, both because it is misunderstood and because it is inherently messy.

That being said, there is a huge need for a renaissance of prudence in the life of the Church. It's the virtue which empowers us to choose well and to do so boldly and confidently. For a generation gripped by uncertainty and indecision, there's nothing quite like prudence to embolden us.

### How would you describe prudence?

Prudence is the virtue of practical wisdom. It's the virtue which both enlightens and encourages us to take the steps that contribute to our flourishing. It reveals what is true and good in the concrete circumstances of our lives and lays a path towards the attainment of that end.

*“For a generation gripped by uncertainty and indecision, there's nothing quite like prudence to embolden us.”*

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Fr. Gregory Pine, O.P., studies dogmatic theology at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland.

### How can we develop prudence in our daily lives?

A good first step is to realize what is possible and what is not. The prudent person isn't called to be absolutely perfect or flawless in his approach to and execution of decisions all at once. Prudence is a virtue for those on the way. Thus, it helps to approach the task with patience, perseverance, and a healthy appreciation of our weakness and woundedness. That being said, we can do so because God has supplied us with all we need to flourish.

### What are the biggest obstacles or challenges to becoming more prudent?

The world, the flesh, and the devil. There are all kinds of obstacles out there. Sometimes it is a matter of being overburdened. It's hard to be prudent when you are always running from one thing to the next. Sometimes it is a matter of being unsure. It's hard to be prudent when we insist on having mathematical certainty before ever proceeding with a decision. Sometimes it is a matter of context. It's hard to be prudent when you find yourself living in an environment of rank imprudence.

### Are there any people who you think especially exemplified prudence?

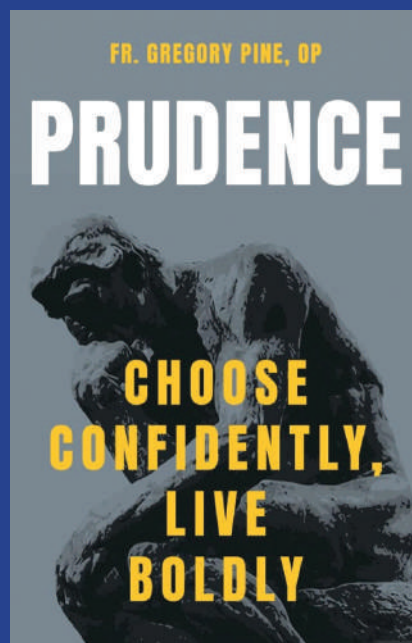
I think of St. Maximilian Kolbe. He had an incredible capacity for envisioning the goal and seeing it through. He was very practical and put his gifts at the service of Our Lord and Our Lady. He accomplished an incredible amount over the course of his life—establishing friaries, founding the Militia Immaculatae, undertaking a huge media apostolate, etc. But, in the end, he never lost sight of who he was or what he was called to. And, when it came time, he was true to his vocation. “I am a priest. I will take his place.” The prudent person grasps the end and takes the steps to accomplish it without ever losing himself along the way. St. Maximilian Kolbe was like that.

### What's the most important thing to know about prudence?

You have what it takes to live your life beautifully and well. Sometimes it's just a matter of gaining a better appreciation for the graces, gifts, and talents that God has given you and a greater competence for putting them in action. This book is about precisely that.

## SPECIAL OFFER FOR BLACKFRIARS READERS!

Visit [dominicanfriars.org/prudence](https://dominicanfriars.org/prudence) and enter the code **PRUD2022** at checkout for a **20% discount** on *Prudence: Choose Confidently, Live Boldly*.





Fr. Vincent Ferrer Bagan, O.P., is Director of Liturgical Music at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

## DOMINICAN FRIARS TRAIN AMERICA'S DIOCESAN PRIESTS IN ROME

By *BlackFriars Staff*

Seven friars of the Province of St. Joseph have been called to Rome to train the seminarians who will become America's next generation of diocesan priests.

Fr. Vincent Ferrer Bagan, O.P., serves as Director of Liturgical Music at the Pontifical North American College, which forms over 300 American seminarians and priests each year.

"We want seminarians to experience the full range of beauty that is possible in Catholic music—something they can bring to their parishes back in the U.S."

This experience of liturgical beauty, instilled amidst the cultural riches of Rome, prepares seminarians and priests to renew the culture back home.

"Even if we don't always grasp the fullness of what we're singing right away, it's something that sticks in our mind and flowers. The joy of the Incarnation, and singing in an uplifting way about the joy of the Incarnation,

will always be relevant through the ages," says Fr. Bagan.

Fr. Peter Cameron, O.P., also of the Province of St. Joseph, has been called to the North American College where he will teach preaching and serve as a formation advisor.

Five friars of our province teach at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, or "the Angelicum," as it is known after its patron. The Angelicum was founded by the French Dominican, Blessed Hyacinth Cormier, to form future leaders of the Church in the thought of St. Thomas.

"Cormier's vision was to have a center of studies, not only for Dominicans, but for the whole Church at the heart of Rome, and it was very prophetic," says Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P., Rector of the University and a friar of the Province of St. Joseph.

Cormier's dream came to fruition in many ways, not least when "a young priest named Karol Wojtyla came to study here, and went on to become one of the most important theologians and spiritual mentors of the 20th century and one of the great spiritual popes of our age," Fr. White adds, referring to Pope St. John Paul II.

Equipped by your generosity with a firm foundation in Faith and Reason, these friars continue to form future leaders of the Church, perhaps even popes.

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