

# praedicare



WINTER 2025 • VOLUME I • ISSUE 2

## REJOICE!

| *The Incarnation and the Dominican Vocation* |  
| *Finding Truth in Lower Manhattan* |  
| *Shining the Light of Truth* |

A Magazine for the Friends of the Dominican Friars Province of Saint Joseph

# Dear friends in Christ,

As the end of the year approaches, the Church joyfully awaits the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. The Prologue to the Gospel of John appropriately prepares us for the coming feast: “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

These powerful words resonate with Dominican Friars. St. Dominic founded the Order of Preachers in the face of a malignant heresy, which denied the saving truth of the Incarnation. St. Dominic dedicated his life to preaching the good news that the Word became flesh for our salvation.

Dominican Friars aspire to follow in the footsteps of St. Dominic as teachers of truth. We preach on a scale wider than ever, thanks to the internet. To embrace the opportunities made possible through digital evangelization, we recently launched a new multimedia hub, Dominican Friars Media—our very own “Dominican Netflix.” To learn more about how we preach the saving truth of Jesus Christ online, check out page 6.

The preaching of the Dominican Friars reaches many souls throughout the world because God has graciously blessed us with abundant vocations over the last two decades. This year, God blessed the Province of St. Joseph with seven new preachers of truth in the friars who were ordained to the priesthood this June. Today, they are busy serving the Church and they have a keen understanding of the truth they preach. As one new priest, Fr. Nicodemus Thomas, O.P., put it, “We do not just hand on facts or things learned in a book. We as Dominican priests get to hand on the very person of Jesus Christ.” For more of their reflections on the teaching office of the priesthood, see page 18.

Over 4,000 pilgrims joined us in Washington, DC, for this year’s Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage at the beautiful Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for a day of preaching, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, a solemn enrollment in the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary, and a concert with The Hillbilly Thomists. After celebrating the Month of the Rosary in October, we are now led by Mary in a season of joyful expectation this Advent as she teaches us how to contemplate the love of the infinite God who became so little in taking on our human nature so that we may come to share in his divinity.

Though the days may be short and getting darker, the Dominican Friars continue to shine the light of truth. And we look forward to our celebration of the coming of the “true light” (John 1:9) at Christmas. Please know of my gratitude and prayers for you and may you and your loved ones be filled with the joy of the infant Christ this Christmas season!

In Christ, Our Lady, and St. Dominic,



**FR. JOHN PAUL KERN, O.P.**

Executive Director  
Dominican Friars Foundation



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*A Magazine for the Friends of the  
Dominican Friars Province of Saint Joseph*

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**On the Cover**  
*Photo by Kelly  
McNamee. Read  
more about the  
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charism on page 2.*

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### To Build the Church

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*Below: At Christmas, the Church celebrates the birth of Jesus. In the Incarnation, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity assumed a human nature and was born of the Virgin Mary. (Image: Madonna and Child, Fra Angelico, ca. 1442)*



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*Good Christian Men,*  
**REJOICE!**

*The Truth of the Incarnation,  
Our Salvation, and the Dominican Vocation*

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BY PRAEDICARE STAFF

**A**t Christmas, the Church celebrates the great mystery of the Incarnation. In the Incarnation, the Word—the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Son of God—assumed a full human nature, body and soul.

*Fr. Allen Moran, O.P.,  
Prior Provincial of  
the Province of St.  
Joseph, places the Infant  
Jesus in the manger  
during Christmas  
Eve Mass. The truth  
of the Incarnation  
has profoundly shaped  
Dominican theology  
and preaching since St.  
Dominic founded the  
order in 1216.*



This is what the Church refers to each Sunday when, during the recitation of the Nicene Creed, she proclaims, “For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.”

Throughout the Church’s history, and especially in its early centuries, many heretical theologians denied the reality of the Incarnation. To simplify things a bit: Some taught that Jesus had no divine nature; others that there was no human nature; or that the natures were not united in one person. And there were other variants besides.

Each of these heresies denied what Catholic theologians call the “hypostatic union.” That theological term refers to the union of the divine and human natures in the one person of Jesus Christ.

In truth, the Incarnation is a great gift to us. Through the Incarnate Lord, and by him, we can draw close to the Father. He does this as the High Priest. Jesus, the High Priest, has taken our human nature and turned it into an altar. On the cross, he is both priest and victim, altar and sacrifice. Because of the most wondrous union of the divine and human natures, he can perfectly share the Father’s gifts of grace with us and bring our prayers and sacrifices before the Father in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus atoned for our sins when, hanging upon the Cross, he cried out “It is finished.” The sacraments make present to us the saving grace Christ won for us by all that he did and suffered during his earthly life. The faithful first become heirs to God’s gifts through Baptism, when we are incorporated into the Mystical Body of

*Countless artists have depicted Jesus, the Incarnate Word, down the centuries. In AD 787, the Second Ecumenical Council of Nicaea solemnly affirmed the legitimacy of sacred images. (Image: Virgin and Child Enthroned, Fra Angelico, ca. 1446)*



Christ and are united with him in his Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

In addition to Baptism, Christ configures a soul to himself in the sacrament of Holy Orders, where a man becomes a deacon, priest or bishop. The priest and bishop have a special share in the priesthood of Christ in that they are empowered to carry out functions—such as offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass—that are essentially public in nature and which sanctify God’s people as a whole. At Mass, of course, we receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus in the Eucharist. In other words, the Eucharist is another fruit of the Incarnation.

It may seem a bit dark to contemplate the Cross at the same time as the creche. Yet, the two events are inextricably linked. The wood of the manger foreshadows the wood of the Cross. As the dear old Christmas carol “Good Christian

Men, Rejoice” reminds us, “Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!”

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice,” with that poignant reminder, is a translation of the hymn, “In Dulci Jubilo,” by the medieval Dominican friar Bl. Henry Suso (1295-1366). Dominicans have, since the beginning of the Order, treasured the mystery of the Incarnation in particular. St. Dominic (1170-1221) founded the Order to preach against the Albigensian heresy, which denied the reality of the Incarnation and taught that the body was evil. We thank God that he raised up a priest after the heart of Jesus to preach the reality of Jesus’s Incarnation. As Dominicans, we are called to follow his example, preaching everywhere and to everyone the reality of the Incarnation: In Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son has become one of us and has brought us all the Father’s gifts of grace. ✠

# Reaching Millions Through the Digital Pulpit

BY PRAEDICARE STAFF



*From lighthearted conversations to courses on Aquinas, the Dominican Friars are expanding their digital evangelization*

Can you miss your vocation? Are there foolproof steps to making a good decision? Are Catholics actually meant to be *weird*? How should a Christian respond to Pride Month? And have you seen the Jubilee manga mascot?

If any of these questions caught your attention, you might have already joined the massive crowds following *Godsplaining* (including some 25,000 among the young generations of Instagram and 60,000 subscribers on YouTube).

Pews jammed with a crowd of 25,000 young people for a Sunday homily would probably catch some attention, but audience numbers in the thousands (or millions) are one of the perks of the online world.

The Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph believe that the souls in this vast mission field can't be left to flounder amid the many questionable and sometimes outright appalling things vying for their attention through their screens. So friars were quick to take their preaching online—and they continue to

find ways to maximize and develop their missionary endeavors in this new mission land.

Large vocation classes for the Province of St. Joseph have allowed friars to branch out beyond parish ministry and classroom teaching to embrace these digital ventures. Some of their more developed initiatives already have five years of history. Others are just starting out, and even the Dominican student brothers, having grown up in an online world, have eagerly joined in.

The friars can be seen across many audio and visual platforms. A diverse array of individuals encounter the Catholic faith and the Dominican charism through them in a new way every day. And geography isn't a barrier since followers from all over the world can (and do) tune in.

Successful online initiatives include *Godsplaining*, *Contemplata*, *Aquinas 101*, the *Thomistic Institute Podcast* and the participation of tens of thousands of pilgrims through the livestream of the annual Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage.

## Godsplaining

*Godsplaining* is a podcast, available on audio podcast platforms as well as YouTube—featuring a regular rotation of Dominican hosts: Fr. Patrick Mary Briscoe, O.P.; Fr. Bonaventure Chapman, O.P.; Fr. Gregory Pine, O.P.; and Fr. Joseph-Anthony Kress, O.P.

They explore various aspects of the faith in a conversational tone—lighthearted and joyful while still respecting the serious and sacred nature of the issues they discuss. Their posts on social media enable them to interact with humor but still provide resources for growing in faith.

For example, one commenter responded to a post on the Rosary by saying, “I didn’t know that you had all these little guidebooks! My wife is currently in OCIA and I think I’ll start picking some up as they become applicable.”

*Godsplaining* has its origins in Louisville, Kentucky, when Fr. Gregory Pine was assigned to St. Louis Bertrand Parish. He and another Dominican friar began posting their parish talks online and received a positive reception. This gave Fr. Gregory the idea to reach out to some of his Dominican confreres and suggest they start a podcast, which they did in 2020. The podcast now has over 1.2 million listeners and 2.9 million downloads. It averages over 60 thousand monthly plays on audio platforms.

## Aquinas 101

Fr. Gregory also started the *Aquinas 101* video series, an initiative of the Thomistic Institute. It follows a lecture format, with each featured speaker discussing the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas. Topics range from the basics—including “Who is St. Thomas Aquinas?”—to more advanced themes, such as the causality of the Sacraments and the indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity in human souls by grace.

*Aquinas 101* is not just a haphazard assortment of talks. The Thomistic Institute has intentionally created an entire array of courses that people can sign up for and work through at their own pace to develop a systematic

understanding of the Catholic faith according to the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Millions of viewers have grown in their faith through *Aquinas 101*. Many non-Catholics who stumbled across the series have been impressed by its ability to make the mysteries of the faith intelligible and for some this was the first step of their journey into the Catholic Church. *Aquinas 101* has also been translated into several languages and has been used by seminarians in a number of countries, including those where Christians are persecuted for their faith, to supplement their studies in preparation for the priesthood.

## Contemplata

*Contemplata*, a podcast hosted by Fr. James Brent, O.P., complements the other Dominican digital offerings by taking viewers and listeners into contemplative prayer.

Since *Contemplata* was first released in February 2024, Fr. James has led listeners on a journey to discover in a deeper way the Holy Trinity’s dwelling within their souls. Topics have included the heart as the center of a person’s being where one encounters the Holy Trinity; how to worship God more fully in the Mass; and metanoia—conversion of heart.

In more recent episodes, he has begun a *lectio divina* series, which helps listeners unpack the riches of Scripture.

Fr. James’ podcast is in keeping with the long tradition of Dominicans leading the ordinary faithful to the heights of contemplative prayer.

*Contemplata* is for people “at large,” he said, to “help them to walk more deeply the path of prayerful union with God and enjoy a deeper participation in the liturgical life of the Church.” And it has. One





The *Godsplaining* podcast tackles issues of faith in a light-hearted and respectful way. (Image courtesy of *Godsplaining* podcast)



listener wrote in to say that *Contemplata* episodes on the Eucharist helped bring about his wife's conversion and reception into the Church.

Fr. James also learned that there has been an unauthorized Spanish translation of the podcast which has been circulating in Latin America. The podcast has also become popular with FOCUS Missionaries on college campuses.

The excitement surrounding the podcast is perhaps not surprising. Fr. James has described people as "starving" for spiritual nourishment. "They're hungry for the Word of God," he said. "They want to meditate on the Word of God."

## Dominican 'Netflix'

With the growth in the Dominican media apostolate, this year the Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph launched their own dedicated Dominican Friars Media platform to help people easily engage with a wide variety of spiritually nourishing content. Visitors to the site can watch episodes of *Contemplata*, *Godsplaining*, and *Aquinas 101*, listen to the *Thomistic Institute Podcast*, pray a monthly novena and hear talks about the Rosary, as well

as find music albums ranging from Dominican chant to the bluegrass music of the Hillbilly Thomists and academic publications including the *Dominicana* journal and *The Thomist*.

The site also hosts coverage of major Dominican events, such as the annual priestly ordinations for the Province of St. Joseph and the

Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage. Last, but not least, it includes recordings of friars preaching from traditional pulpits too. In other words, this new digital platform is a real Dominican Netflix.

Dominican Friars Media is available at [media.dominicanfriars.org](http://media.dominicanfriars.org).

## Traditional (secular) media too

It's not just people in the Church who are interested in what Dominican preachers have to say.

Fr. Patrick Mary Briscoe, O.P., has used his role as a television news commentator to explain the faith to a wide and curious audience on both Catholic channels like EWTN and secular channels such as CNN.

His experience with media dates back to his senior year of college, when he managed the campus radio station. In the Order, he continued his communications experience by editing *Dominicana*, a journal published by the student brothers of the Province of St. Joseph. He then went on to serve as the editor of the *Aleteia* English website and *Our Sunday Visitor* magazine. He was most recently appointed as the General Promoter for Media for the entire Dominican Order.

While the death of Pope Francis and election of Pope Leo XIV intrigued the Catholic world, it also prompted many outside of the faith to ask questions and consider what the Church has to offer. Google searches for "How do I become Catholic?" shot up during the recent conclave, as the Church dominated the news cycle.

"The world sat for days watching a seagull next to a chimney," Fr. Patrick pointed out. The Sistine Chapel bird served as a lighthearted but poignant reminder of the Church's enduring global relevance.

As the world waited for white smoke, Fr. Patrick had





a unique opportunity. His cable news interviews allowed him to speak about topics rarely discussed in the secular media: the mystery of life after death; the sacred Liturgy; and what Catholics believe about the Church, especially St. Peter and the papacy.

“Getting to say all of that is an extraordinary thing,” he said.

Fr. Patrick easily stands out among other commentators, and not just because of his white habit. He said most Americans view the media through a “political prism,” and are “feeling angrier and more alienated even when their side is winning.”

He offers an alternative angle to viewers: “I simply approach these opportunities with the proclamation of the Gospel in mind.”

### Preaching for the salvation of souls

Embracing their mission of preaching for the salvation of souls leads Dominican Friars to always seek out new opportunities to share the saving truth of Jesus Christ.

In embracing the newest opportunities for digital evangelization online, the Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph follow in the footsteps of previous generations of friars who embraced new technologies such as the printing press and the radio to reach as many souls as possible. Pope Leo has also made it clear that the path for the Church today is not to withdraw but rather to prudently engage the digital world. And the Dominican Friars are leading the charge. ✠



Fr. James Brent, O.P., leads listeners into contemplative prayer on *Contemplata*.

# UPCOMING



### Handel's Messiah

St. Gertrude Parish  
Cincinnati, OH



### 2026 Aquinas Lecture: Dante and Aquinas

Dominican House of Studies  
Washington, DC



### March for Life

National Mall  
Washington, DC



### Family Blessing Mass

Dominican Friars Foundation  
Church of St. Vincent Ferrer  
New York, NY



### Vocation Weekend

Dominican House of Studies  
Washington, DC



### Priesthood Ordinations

St. Dominic Church  
Washington, DC



# Finding Truth in Lower Manhattan

*Record number of baptisms reflect thriving parish in trendy Greenwich Village*

BY PRAEDICARE STAFF | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFFREY BRUNO

**I**n the heart of Manhattan lies Greenwich Village, a young, bustling neighborhood, crisscrossed by commuters who seem too busy to think about God.

Nestled in the Village is St. Joseph's Church, staffed by two Dominican priests and a cooperator brother, in addition to other friars in residence who serve in other ministries including the Catholic Center at NYU. These Dominicans have managed to break through the hustle and bustle and create a thriving space for Catholic intellectual life in the city.

Fr. Boniface Endorf, O.P., the pastor, and Fr. Jonah Teller, O.P., the parochial

vicar, baptized 19 adults this Easter—a record since the Dominicans arrived in the Village in 2003.

Why is the parish attracting so many converts?

When parishioners arrive at St. Joseph's, they find a constellation of engaging opportunities.

"They find orthodoxy," Fr. Jonah explained. "They find good liturgies and solid preaching. There's the additional excitement of being around something vibrant."

The friars currently serving the parish went through formation at a unique time in the Province's recent history. For the last two decades, the Province has

bucked national trends by welcoming large vocation classes, filled with younger men who were drawn to the Order due to its orthodoxy, intellectual commitment, reverent celebration of the sacred liturgy, fraternity, and zeal for the salvation of souls.

St. Joseph's Church also boasts another sign of Dominican dynamism: It hosts a Thomistic Institute chapter, where attendees have the opportunity to hear lectures from Catholic academics on topics with titles ranging from "Is Free Will an Illusion?" to "The Neuroscience of Vice and Virtue."

It is no surprise that this ministry, which started on college campuses, has



spread quickly at this parish filled with young professionals. With six lectures a year, the Institute draws a large crowd of young adults to each event.

Fr. Boniface is not surprised at this popularity: “They’re interested in knowing their Faith beyond the superficial level—what does the Faith have to say about what’s going on around us? Not just current events, but philosophical issues, where our speakers share their publishing and research.”

Young professionals are facing a complex, fast-changing world. When futures feel uncertain, the steadiness of the Church provides an anchor.

“People are very interested in seeing the depths of the Faith, and how it applies,” Fr. Boniface said.

He noted other popular lecture topics such as: What does St. Thomas Aquinas have to say about friendship and the isolation we experience in the West? What do we now know about the brain on a biological level, and how does that connect with traditional virtue theory in the Church?

## **In wine, there is truth**

Another ministry that packs people in is *In Vino Veritas*.

Centered around an initial talk on a spiritual or scholarly topic, participants then take the discussion into their own hands. Sharing wine—it’s an “*in vino*” event—they have the opportunity to discuss topics in depth on Sunday evenings.

The success of the evening lies in the atmosphere created by the friars, who balance concern for intellectual material with an easy-going, fraternal mood.

“Everyone is so welcoming there,” shared Kaitlyn Colgan, one of the participants. “It’s a great way to get connected into the

parish and to meet other young adults who are Catholic, and it’s really a great discussion. I think you can show up as you are, and have the opportunity to learn and grow.”

## **Adoration too**

When the spiritual life is working hand in hand with the life of the mind, sparks fly. It is no coincidence that St. Joseph’s, in addition to its robust calendar, hosts the Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel, the first (and so far only) spot for perpetual adoration in Manhattan.

Newcomers can introduce themselves to the parish secretary, and gain access to the Chapel at any time day or night in this “City that Never Sleeps.”

To Fr. Boniface, the greatest blessing of the Chapel has been vocations: The parish has seen three men accepted into the Dominican Order, and one woman to the contemplative Dominican nuns, in addition to the many couples who have seen their relationships confirmed and deepened.

“God, if you give him that opening in your life, he’ll raise you up,” remarked Fr. Boniface.

For a young person in the constant churn of New York City, finding consistency in intellectual life and religious practice can be difficult. Fr. Boniface knows this struggle well, and has a clear-eyed vision for how St. Joseph’s can be an anchor even if parishioners are only there for a short time, before moving on to their next career.

“We have two to five years to form [the parishioners] as deeply as we can in the Faith,” he said.

But when they’ve left, they bring the vibrance of St. Joseph’s with them.

“We are forming the future leadership of the Catholic Church in this country,” he said. ✠



# By The Numbers

## 2025 Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage

On Saturday, September 27, the Dominican Friars hosted the 3rd annual Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Over 4,000 pilgrims and over 24,800 viewers online from around the world gathered for a day of preaching, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass and a solemn enrollment in the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary. That evening, the critically acclaimed bluegrass band composed entirely of friars, The Hillbilly Thomists, treated attendees to a concert under the stars on the mall of the Catholic University of America.

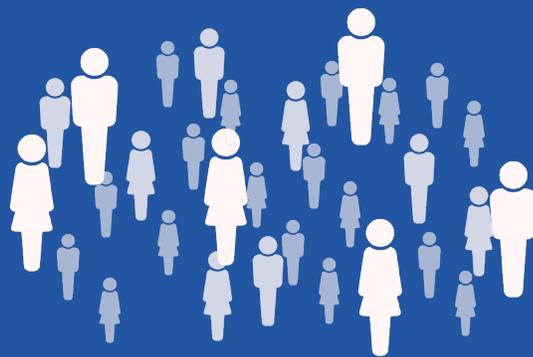
The graces God poured out were innumerable—but a handful of stats give a sense of how awesome the 2025 Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage was!

# 4

Conferences  
preached by  
two friars



 **24,851**  
Livestream Views



**4,000+** Pilgrims  
Attending in person

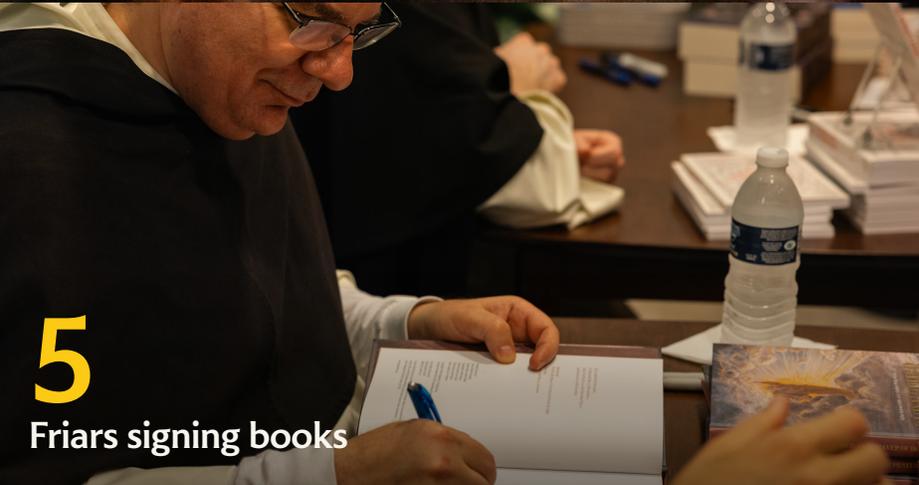


**800+** Confessions  
Heard by 15 priests, over 3 hours

**550** New enrollments in  
the Confraternity  
of the Most Holy  
Rosary



**3**  
Hours of  
Eucharistic  
Adoration



**5**  
Friars signing books



**6**  
Food trucks



**1**  
Hillbilly  
Thomists  
concert

**D Media**

Relive the Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage:  
[media.dominicanfriars.org](http://media.dominicanfriars.org)



# PREACHERS OF HAPPINESS

*An Interview with the Most Reverend  
Anthony C. Fisher, O.P., Archbishop of Sydney*

BY PRAEDICARE STAFF

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATTHEW BARRICK, JEFFREY BRUNO,  
AND JON-MICHAEL STONE

If you're reading this, you're a teacher of some sort—and you share that in common with the Dominican Friars.

Each person has a natural desire to learn and to teach others, the Most Reverend Anthony C. Fisher, O.P., Archbishop of Sydney, Australia, told us when he was in Washington this summer for the priestly ordination of seven friars of the Province of St. Joseph.

“Then Christians build on that through the sacrament of Baptism,” he said. “They're given a share in Christ's prophetic office that they must teach the world by their words and by their deeds.”

Ordination to the priesthood adds another level to the baptismal mandate, conferring upon priests and bishops a special duty to teach.

“They have to speak not just of their own human wisdom or even of a general Christian wisdom about things,” explained Archbishop Fisher. “They have to represent Christ as the head, the thinking part of the Church as well as the leading part of the Church.”







## Wretchedly deluded souls

The Dominicans have long excelled as the “thinking part” of the Church. St. Dominic was inspired to create the Order due to the experiences he had during a diplomatic mission he was sent on in 1203.

According to an early history of the Order by Bl. Jordan of Saxony, St. Dominic found a “great number of souls... wretchedly deluded” by the Albigensian heresy in the area of Toulouse, France. The proprietor of the inn where he was staying was likewise “deluded,” so St. Dominic stayed up all night arguing with him. The innkeeper could not “resist the wisdom and spirit that spoke” through St. Dominic, and he returned to the Faith.

Once the Order was founded, St. Dominic quickly sent out his brethren to the great universities of Europe. Within mere decades of the Order’s founding, the Dominicans produced the Church’s model teacher, St. Thomas Aquinas, who is recognized as the Universal Doctor (Teacher) of the Church.

Today, the Dominican Friars worldwide, and the friars of the Province of St.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher, center, and other concelebrants welcome the newly ordained priests to the sacristy after the Mass of Ordination on June 5, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.



Joseph in particular, still teach actively. Significant ministries of the friars include intellectual centers, such as Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island, and the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, DC. The Thomistic Institute brings hard-hitting intellectual conversations to college campuses and other venues across the globe. Various digital apostolates teach hundreds of thousands each year. All of this builds on the intelligent and engaging preaching that the faithful receive at parishes every day across the Province.

## Go out to the world and ... provoke?

The Dominican Friars’ robust activity comes at a time when participation in the life of the Church has declined significantly over the last few decades. According to Archbishop Fisher the culture used to be predominantly

Christian, and society’s institutions generally transmitted Christian values.

“A lot of people, even people who would count themselves Christian, are in fact being inoculated by our culture to religion, to Christianity,” Archbishop Fisher said. “The culture’s teaching us again and again, it doesn’t matter.”

For him, this “very relativist” culture means Dominican priests “actually have to be provocateurs.”

“They have to go, one way or another, unsettle people [who are] comfortably going with the flow of the culture and say, ‘Hey, is that really making you happy? Is that giving you purpose? Is that giving you meaning in life?’” he said.

While a provocateur can come across as strident, that is not the approach of a Dominican provocateur. Archbishop Fisher’s episcopal motto is “Veritatem facientes in caritate,” which translates to “Speaking the truth in love.”

“We love the other person,” Archbishop Fisher said. “We want to share with them what we think will make them happy and make for a better life for them.”



### **“A life conducive to study”**

Naturally, being able to reach people in a “very relativist” culture requires preparation.

Though Jesus himself is the true teacher, a priest is not excused from diligent preparation for his ministry. Archbishop Fisher pointed out that it takes about seven years of intellectual formation before ordination. (Many friars continue for further advanced studies after ordination.)

Then each homily or lecture requires hours of preparation itself, he pointed out.

To bring the truth “requires a lot of study and a life conducive to study,” he said.

And the laity expect deep reflection from the Dominican Friars.

“I think perhaps more than ever, people are searching for answers and for meaning and purpose,” Archbishop Fisher said.

For their part, the friars also depend on the laity. “We need them to be supporting the friars and the priests to do that sort of work,” Archbishop Fisher said.

*Your generous support allows us to form future Dominican priests. To donate, please visit [SupportTheFriars.org](http://SupportTheFriars.org) or scan the QR code. ✠*

**“To the young men of America I say: People are crying out for words of life and sacraments of grace to transfigure their hearts and lives; you might be the very one, by God’s grace, to offer them this as a Dominican priest. Come discern with them, be immersed in their charism and life, and be assured of a first-rate formation.”**

Archbishop Anthony C. Fisher, O.P.  
at the Mass of Ordination on June 5, 2025



Newly ordained Fr. Titus Sanchez, O.P., gives his first blessing to Archbishop Anthony Fisher, O.P.



**Fr. Bertrand Hebert, O.P.**

**Hometown:** Crowley, LA

**Alma Mater:** Catholic University of America

**Current Ministry:** Advanced studies

“Christ stands as the perfect teacher. His lessons resonate deeply, not solely due to the profound images and parables he used—though they are indeed powerful—but because he is Truth in the flesh, showcasing the greatest lesson of truth at work in our lives. The Dominicans were founded partly to counteract erroneous teachings that diminish the significance of the flesh and the humanity of Christ. Thus, we hold a heartfelt devotion to the Incarnation, which profoundly shapes our prayer, study, and preaching.”

**Fr. Nicodemus Thomas, O.P.**

**Hometown:** Waltham, MA

**Alma Mater:** Providence College

**Current Ministry:** Parish ministry at St. Thomas Aquinas University Parish in Charlottesville, VA

“Many fields of study help people know things. Our studies as Dominican Friars help us know a person: Jesus Christ. And that is what separates the teaching office of the Church from so many other teachings. We do not just hand on facts or things learned in a book. We as Dominican priests get to hand on the very person of Jesus Christ. We do so mystically from the pulpit and in the classroom and even more beautifully on the altar.”

**Fr. Gregory Santy, O.P.**

**Hometown:** Syracuse, NY

**Alma Mater:** Catholic University of America

**Current Ministry:** Campus ministry at Providence College

“As St. Thomas once noted, these are the two greatest mysteries of our Faith: the divinity of the Trinity and the humanity of Christ. Since eternal life consists in knowing these, in knowing the only true God and the one whom he has sent (John 17:3), and we can only come to know, to believe in them by hearing, the greatest need for teaching in the Church today, as it has always been, is the preaching of these two truths, which are the heart of the Gospel message.”

**Fr. Linus Martz, O.P.**

**Hometown:** Hanover, PA

**Alma Mater:** Christendom College

**Current Ministry:** Parish ministry at Holy Innocents Church in Pleasantville, NY

“As a priest, I look forward to teaching all who will listen about Christ’s merciful grace, which we receive through the Church and her sacraments. I especially hope in my words and actions to make Christ the Teacher present to families, to the poor, and to those who do not yet believe.”



# Shining the Light of Truth

*The seven newest priests of the Province of St. Joseph share their thoughts on bringing the truth to a world in need.*

*“Those who are learned will be radiant as the sky in all its beauty; those who instruct the people in goodness will shine like the stars for all eternity.”*

By the time a Dominican friar is ordained a priest, he will have sung this antiphon dozens of times. It comes from Morning Prayer for the Liturgy of the Hours for the feast of a Doctor of the Church. Most friars, in all humility, would not aspire to be recognized as a Doctor of the Church, yet the antiphon for Morning Prayer may nonetheless inspire them in their ministry. That’s because the bishops and priests of the Church are entrusted with the sacred duty of teaching the faithful. The priest, by virtue of his ordination, is a teacher, even if he never steps foot in a classroom.

On Thursday, June 5, the Most Reverend Anthony C. Fisher, O.P., Archbishop of Sydney, Australia, ordained seven friars to the priesthood of Jesus Christ. They are bringing clarity to a world hungry for sound teaching. Wherever they go throughout their ministries, they will take what they have learned from their Dominican formation and hand on these gifts to the faithful, inquirers, and everyone else besides. Like the centuries of Dominican priests before them, they will “instruct the people in goodness” and after years of faithful service, “shine like the stars for all eternity.”

But what does it mean for a Dominican priest to act as teacher? The seven Dominican priests shared their thoughts. ✠

## Fr. Titus Sanchez, O.P.

**Hometown:** Fort Worth, TX  
**Alma Mater:** Southern Methodist University  
**Current Ministry:** Advanced studies

“The greatest need for teachers in the Church today is that they be credible witnesses. When a preacher’s life is rooted in Christ, he becomes a human window to divine things. That is my prayer for my priestly ministry: when people see me, may they see Jesus; when they hear me, may they hear Jesus.”

## Fr. Louis Bethea, O.P.

**Hometown:** Springfield, VA  
**Alma Mater:** Carnegie-Mellon University  
**Current Ministry:** Advanced studies

“A pressing challenge facing the church is an underappreciation of just how special it is to be baptized into the Mystical Body of Christ...Just as I am beginning to embark on my own journey as a priest of Jesus Christ, preaching and teaching with a special commission as an ordained minister, all of the baptized have their own way—especially in the family and the workplace—of teaching the truth of God, and we must help reinvigorate an understanding and appreciation for this essential component of being Christian.”

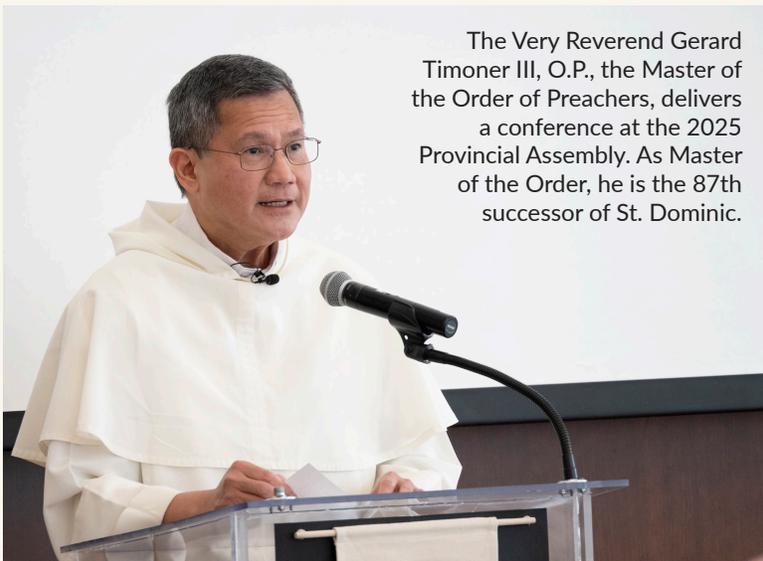
## Fr. Basil Burroughs, O.P.

**Hometown:** Kingston, Ontario, Canada  
**Alma Mater:** Queen’s University  
**Current Ministry:** Advanced studies

“A reality that excites me is that a priest shares in a privileged way in the teaching mission given to Christ: ‘As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ The priest receives a grace and a charge to perpetuate Christ’s mediating presence in the world, a presence that brings divine truth, mercy, and redemption...The priest perpetuates Christ’s testimony about who he is and where true power to love is found.”



Over 200 Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph gathered for their Provincial Assembly from June 2-4 in Washington, DC. The Friars gathered together as a Province for prayer, conferences, and common recreation for the first time in a decade. The priestly ordinations occurred the following day.



The Very Reverend Gerard Timoner III, O.P., the Master of the Order of Preachers, delivers a conference at the 2025 Provincial Assembly. As Master of the Order, he is the 87th successor of St. Dominic.



The Dominican Friars gather for Vespers at the Dominican House of Studies chapel on the first day of the Provincial Assembly.



The Very Reverend Allen Moran, O.P., Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Joseph, blesses a statue of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, which stands atop the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, DC. The statue was a generous gift of Nadja and Donald West and their family.



**Dominican Friars**

province of saint joseph

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# MATCHING CHALLENGE for Vocations

In a world of confusion, the Church needs preachers of clarity and truth. Your generous gift allows us to educate and form new friars for this sacred mission.

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**A FIRST BLESSING**

Fr. Linus Martz, O.P., imparts a first blessing to a family following his priestly ordination on June 5 in Washington, DC.