



Dominican Family Aotearoa New Zealand

To Praise, To Bless, To Preach

Whakapaingia, Whakanuia, Whakapaoho

NEWSLETTER

February 2017

Welcome to this newsletter, the first of a combined newsletter for the Dominican Family of Aotearoa New Zealand. This newsletter is an initiative of the Dominican Family Mission & Justice Group. We anticipate that we will send a newsletter three to four times each year. We welcome your contributions. Please send contributions for the next edition by mid-May. **Please direct any questions to a member of the Dominican Family Mission and Justice Group:**

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National Catholic Deaf Conference



During the weekend Friday 3 – 5 February a National Catholic Deaf Conference was held at the Home of Compassion Conference Centre, Island Bay, Wellington. The theme of the Conference was, 'Celebrating 800 Years of Dominican Life and our Irish Heritage'. Throughout the weekend we reflected on our history, the Catholic Deaf Ministry in New Zealand and the challenges that lie ahead for this ministry.

Three women, Mary Johnson, Jackie Overall and Clare Holtham who had attended the Dominican Family Gathering held in Auckland in November 2016, led the opening liturgy on Friday evening. Mary led the procession carrying the Jubilee Candle, while Jackie and Clare walked behind carrying the Dominican banner gifted to us by Father Kevin after the National Gathering. These were then placed on an altar. After a prayer, each of the three women shared with the group some memories of the gathering and showed photos they had taken. The liturgy was very moving as it linked us to the 800 Anniversary celebrations held throughout 2016.

Sister Mary Horn OP was our guest speaker and gave a wonderful PowerPoint presentation of the early Irish Dominican Sisters living in Galway, Ireland and their lives during the times of persecution in the mid-1600s. At that time, the Sisters had to leave Ireland to live in Spain. Some years later two Sisters returned to Ireland and from then on the number of Sisters increased. Everyone present was fascinated hearing about our ten Foundresses who travelled from Ireland and landed in Port Chalmers on February 18 1871. It was delightful to hear so many thoughtful questions about the early days in Dunedin at the end of Mary's presentation. Some of St Dominic's

ex-pupils said to me, 'we didn't know anything about that'! Obviously, we had never told them very much about our early history, even though we dressed them as Foundresses on Foundresses Day and gave them a special treat to celebrate!

Throughout the weekend, many interesting stories and photos were shared from the early days at Dover Street, Island Bay where St Dominic's School for the Deaf began in 1944, until the school closed in Feilding in 1989. At one session, memories of school days were shared by four people one from each decade the school was open. As we were within walking distance of Dover Street, we made a trip down memory lane. We didn't see much of the old building, but all enjoyed the walk.

Our main aim of the Conference was not to just keep looking back and sharing memories, but to look at the Pastoral Ministry as it is today and where it is going in the future. Since the Pastoral Ministry began in 1978 huge changes have taken place. Some of these changes are:

- The closure of the only Catholic School for Deaf Children in New Zealand
- Mainstreaming
- Cochlear implants – especially for children at a young age
- Advancement in technology

This means Pastoral Ministers have to make contact with Parishes and Catholic Schools in order to find out where Catholic Deaf children and students are.

A panel of four young Deaf participants who had been mainstreamed spoke very positively to us about their schooling and the help received by having interpreters and notetakers in the classroom.

One of the joys of the weekend was having Sister Janet Marchesani, a Dominican Sister of Hope from Ossining, New York, with us for the Conference. Sister Janet has had many years of experience working with Deaf People in New York. She enjoyed the Conference meeting a lot of new friends and lots of sightseeing afterwards!

We share below a few sentences from two of the participants about their experience of the Conference

FROM Jackie Overall

I had a very interested experience at the Catholic Deaf Conference on Waitangi Weekend in Wellington. It was about history that Sister Mary Horn OP explain about 10 Sisters from Ireland came to Dunedin on the journey ship. We looked at the place where the old St Dominic's School at Island Bay. Also three Deaf adults and one ex-teacher talked about their life at St Dominic's. Mary Johnson carried a candle while Claire Holtham and I hold the Dominican Banner walked toward and put on the table. Each one of us talked about the '4 Pillars' from Auckland Conference in November.

FROM Maureen Lambert

Hi! My name is Maureen Lambert from Palmerston North. On Waitangi Weekend I went to Island Bay where I stay for the weekend from Friday till Sunday. I meet new friends and most from ex St Dominic's. So last Friday night David Loving Molloy want us to introduce each others.

On Saturday morning I find interesting about Ireland Nuns which its very interesting and listen of nuns history and travel all the way New Zealand. I thought "Wow". Must be very brave 10 nuns.

Saturday afternoon we all went to see old Island Bay school for the Deaf and nice walk. We took photos.

I enjoyed myself and shared with others. Also a lot of laugh and more relaxed. My best friend Erina find its worth to come to learn a lot. I love to hear a lot of history and about Dominicans and where come from.

Enjoy to watch old film of St Dominic's School in Feilding and nice wine and cheese.

There was beautiful foods lunch also pudding and dinner. We all sit around and talked for two days. I find it worth for me to go and catch up more about history another times. Lovely Mass on Sunday morning.

Wonderful weekend!! Many thanks

Our brother Kevin is on the move...

Dear friends, (brother and sisters all)

Some of you may know already that I have been elected the prior of our house in Melbourne, St Dominic's Priory. It is the home of some students and soon it will be of 8 or 9 novices, three lecturers, and some older retired lecturers, two men at Nazareth House, the indomitable Michael Kisu our paraplegic Solomonese brother, and the - not to forget a large parish and Siena College across the road. This election came straight out of the blue. I had no idea that my name was being thought of. So I had to take a little time before I said yes. It is a double edged sword: some good things to be done in Melbourne, especially with the young students and novices; while the not-so-good other side means leaving behind a bunch of people and things that also mean a lot to me. First my own brothers here, and then all those is the Dominican Family. I will be sorry to leave you. For those whom I do not see, go well and may the Dominican Family flourish.

I will depart from Melbourne in the first or second week of March. Please keep the friars here and in Melbourne in your prayer. I will certainly remember you all in prayer.

Your brother, Kev



Looking back on #Jubilee800

Invercargill



The Jubilee 800 celebration began in Invercargill in November 2015 with a procession of Light acknowledging the first Dominican beginnings in the south in St Catherine's situated next door to St Mary's Basilica. We gathered in the Basilica foyer where each person lit their candle from the Jubilee candle where we then processed into the church to pray Evening Prayer of the Church.

During the year the Dominican Family group met to study, pray and celebrate Dominican feasts. We especially appreciated the four week study of the four pillars as prepared by Sisters Judith McGinley and Jan O'Gilly.

The climax of the celebration was the Jubilee Mass held in Stadium Southland where Dominican ex-pupils, friends

and family gathered with the five Dominican founded schools and the Bishop, local priests and dignitaries.

On 21 January 2017 the closing of the Jubilee, some members of the Dominican family shared a potluck meal at Korimako with our guest Sister Lieu op from Vietnam.

Dunedin Diocese

The most obvious value of the Jubilee as a stimulus is that our diocese that includes North Otago, Dunedin, Central Otago and Southland had both separate and combined activities.

Separate activities were the masses of celebration in Invercargill, Dunedin and Oamaru and then small group work. In Dunedin, the small group *the Pilgrims* focussed on the pillar of prayer as it worked through the challenges of being Dominican in this time. A series of August gatherings for the wider Dominican Family included both Dunedin and Oamaru folk and considered the four pillars with resources developed by Sr Jan Ogilvy and Sr Judith McGinley. This group decided it would like to meet on a regular basis and it did gather for a feedback from the November Gathering. It has also set dates for meetings in 2017.

Combined was a series of meetings through both cloud and face to face, to plan and develop the presentation of Prayer that had been assigned to us. This was a most valuable time as all areas needed to consider the thoughts of others. The presentation on prayer included contributions from each of the people from our Diocese who went to the November Gathering and clarified the symbol of both our district and our pillar as the albatross.

We had discussed a gathering on the Feast of St Thomas Aquinas in January 2017 as a closure, but the Sisters have a national gathering at that time, so small and local groups have had their own closure and thanksgiving time. The challenge will now be to build on the energy of this Jubilee year and the connections and relationships it has strengthened.



Christchurch

We in Christchurch started the Jubilee year off with a very successful Mass which the late Bishop Barry celebrated, doing us proud by saying the Mass of St Dominic and giving a wonderful sermon on the life of St Dominic. This was followed by a pot luck luncheon attended by 50 people. It was heartening to see such a crowd.

May brought the Mission and Justice team meeting to Christchurch. On the Saturday we held a Dominican Family get together at the Parish centre of Christ the King. This was a great success and about 40 people attended for the day. Having speakers from the team, was a great boost to Christchurch. Hopefully we can gather again this year.

August was the annual ex-pupil's meal, this year we had a luncheon instead of an evening meal which was very successful we had about 45 ex-pupils at this. The Family

Events coming up ...

Turning Towards Life: Dominican Sisters Margaret Galiardi OP and Sharon Zayac OP facilitate workshops and retreats (Full schedule can be downloaded from www.dominicans.org.nz):

Auckland:

- Sat 4 March, Mary MacKillop Centre, 9.30am to 4.30pm
- Thu 9 March, Pompallier Centre, 4-6pm

Whangarei

- Thu 8 March, St Francis Xavier Church, 7.30-9.00pm

Palmerston North

- Sat 11 March, Catholic Diocesan Centre, 10am to 4.00pm

Oamaru

- Thu 16 March, St Kevin's College, 11am-12.30pm
- Sat 18 March, Teschemakers Convention Centre, 9am – 3pm

Invercargill

- Small informal gatherings are planned.

Dunedin

- Fri 24 March, University of Otago – Centre for Theology & Public Issues, 12.00pm
- Sat 25 March, Burns Lodge, 9.30am-4.30pm

Arrowtown

- Mon 27 March, 10.00am (venue TBC)

More detailed information on our website:

www.dominicans.org.nz

Recommended websites ...

For all the latest news from the Dominican Family in Aotearoa New Zealand:

www.dominicans.org.nz

For a newsletter for the Dominican Family in Australia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea :

http://www.opeast.org.au/uploads/rsfil/007313_abeb.pdf

gathering in November was discussed and registration forms were distributed.

Many meetings were held with a few of the family members to plan the pillar presentation and the Sunday morning prayers (thank goodness for e-mail) for the national gathering.

Te Awa Rongopai-Lower North Island

The Lower North Island celebrations began with wonderful celebrations in Wellington and Feilding. In Wellington Heath from Challenge spoke of St Dominic, Judith and Kay Blackburn shared the light of Dominic and Pope Honorius confirming the order of preachers. In Feilding one of the highlights was the presence and participation of the Deaf community. Chaplain for the Deaf, David Loving-Molloy reflected the sending out of the seventy-two disciples and traced the story of Dominicans in New Zealand in a way that captured the spirit of the Jubilee. Through their use of banners and sign-singing the Deaf community reminded us that Preaching is so much more than the spoken word.

Throughout the year we have enjoyed including a Family Day to celebrate St Catherine's Day in Feilding.



Auckland

Our #Jubilee800 Celebration began with a silent procession and lighting of candles at a gathering in Blockhouse Bay. Kevin offered a reflection on "St Dominic and the significance of Now!" and those who gathered shared one word about our connection with the Dominican charism.



Highlights through the year included a Gathering for St Catherine's Day when we focused on the topic *What is Mission for me in Aotearoa New Zealand today?* We used Family Violence as a way of exploring how we can respond to situations in our world today. A group gathered to plan for the National Gathering, a great reason to strengthen relationships. Lots of teachers from NZ and Australian schools participated in the Dominican Education Conference in Auckland in July. Bruce Drysdale prepared beautifully Dominican liturgies.

In Auckland we celebrated a Jubilee Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on 3 August. It was a wonderful gathering with all branches of the Family and many friends joining the celebration.



In a lecture series we learned and shared about great Dominicans and reflected on how their actions speak to us today. As we brought the year to a close in January we reflected on Fr Bruno Cadore's letter to the Dominican Family, 1 Jan 2016.

The Dominican Family Mission and Justice Group invites you to reflect on that quotation (shown below) in small groups:

THE ORDER TOMORROW SHOULD BE MORE THAN EVER ANIMATED BY THE DESIRE TO BECOME MORE AND MORE THE « FAMILY OF DOMINIC » WHICH, FROM THE BEGINNING, WAS AN INNOVATION FOR THE CHURCH. THIS OUGHT TO LEAD US WELL BEYOND GOOD FRATERNAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE DOMINICAN FAMILY. MORE SHARPLY THE QUESTION WILL NO DOUBT BE THE FOLLOWING: HOW DOES BEING THIS « FAMILY » ALLOW US TOGETHER TO IDENTIFY BETTER THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH AND OF THE WORLD, AND TO RESPOND IN ASSUMING TOGETHER A COMMON APOSTOLIC AND EVANGELICAL RESPONSIBILITY?

FR BRUNO CADORE'S LETTER TO THE DOMINICAN FAMILY
1 JANUARY 2016.

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