



*Lay Dominicans of Aotearoa, New Zealand-  
Mai i Te Hiku o te Ika ki Te Waipounamu.*

**Newsletter- Spring 2019.**

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**Blessings and Greetings.**

From Willie Campbell, a member of Dom Consult.

Our last newsletter came to you from Mike Kelly. a very important promoter of the value of recognising Dominican laity as an arm of the wider Dominican Family with a set of values that defines in a very responsive and inclusive way its focus and actions.

Alas, Mike is no longer with us in person and our thoughts and prayers are with Jenny.

Mike was an active member of a Dominican preaching team and If you would wish to hear Mike’s preaching you can find it at this website:



**The Word** is a service of the Order of Preachers, offering audible daily reflections on the Christian scriptures. Their preachers are drawn from the entire worldwide Dominican family –priests, brothers, sisters and lay people. Mike Kelly was a regular contributor. He was a key person in bringing our local Dominican whanau together. He was part of a preaching team that travelled widely in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia. In his profile on The Word he says “The thing that makes me Dominican is what Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP calls “a deep relationship between the Dominican vocation to preach, and a passion for justice”.

You can hear some of Mike’s podcasts online at: <https://word.op.org/author/mike-kelly/>

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**Advance Notice:**

**Planned Dominican Laity gathering- Wellington November 2020.**

The Lower North island group –Te Awa Rongopai are planning and managing this national event. It is likely to be in Wellington on November 13-15 2020. While promoted by the Laity, it will be an inclusive gathering and all Dominican Family and friends are welcome. There will be some funding support for travel from out of the district. You can expect more definite information in the new year.



**International Dominican Educators  
Conference. Invercargill. October 2019**

Mary Scally and Willie Campbell attended this event as members of the Lay branch of the Dominican Family. They were in a group of 100 educators from schools and tertiary institutions from Solomon Islands, Australia and New Zealand. From the first moment of welcome at the Bluff Marae, with its emphasis on heritage, ancestry and continuing values this was a very Dominican space. With the blessing of the three pieces of pounamu that will travel to each of the three countries and then be reunited at the next conference, a profoundly spiritual emphasis on connection and community was established. The two keynote speakers looked at differing aspects of being an educator in the Dominican tradition. Brendan Spillane emphasised the challenge of creating connection in a time of disconnection. He visited the four pillars of Dominican life and the importance of your story being shown in your practice. Laurie Brink, OP looked at **Jesus as the Master Teacher** through New Testament examples. She focussed on a) Conviction- (being sincere about who or what you are teaching) b) Charisma- (the skills and talents that we bring to our role) c) Content- (what is it that we must include in our work) and d) Contexts- (with whom are we are working and where). She later revisited these with her look at **Dominic as a Master Teacher**.

Workshops, prayer corners and surrounding videos from contributing schools and educators focussed on the application of Dominican Values and Practice to their activities. In all, a truly refreshing and inspirational experience for attendees. Congratulations to organisers.

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**Dominican Family Mission and Justice Group,**

This group emerged from the Sisters Mission, Justice and Formation committee in 2011. In their wisdom they saw this as a group that would share information between the three branches of the Family and a "ginger group" that looked at issues of Mission and then spread that in their own networks. Currently the Friars are Fr Chris Loughnan, Fr Joe Parkinson, the Sisters are Sr Helen Bergin, Sr Mary Anna Baird, Sr Judith Robinson and the Lay members are Mary Betz, (Auckland) Mary Woods, (Kapiti) and a shared role between Kay Price and Willie Campbell from the South Island. This year they have had two meetings in Auckland and shared

information about activities and then considered Mission concerns to spread wide. **Mary Woods** comments:

“We have focused on the issues of racism and the environment at recent meetings - topics that are crucial for survival at this time.

While doing this we have considered who we are and who we connect with. We need to continue these discussions.

A thought based on the events of recent weeks:

We are a group of older people, rich in experience and wisdom, but not as full of energy as we used to be. The movement for climate justice is being led by young energetic people. They need our support to be able to sustain their efforts and we need them to succeed. So my question is who can we link with to bring about change together? And how can we do this?

Love and blessings  
M”



**Moira Gallagher** is a foundation member of the Lay group- Dom Consult , a practitioner of Christian Meditation and a volunteer with young children at Sacred Heart School in Dunedin. She looks at the notion of Truth within the Dominican life.

**Veritas - Children’s Voices- Molly-Jane, Iris and Moira Gallagher (Sept 2019)**

Every year on the feast of St Dominic children from five Dominican charism schools in Milton and Dunedin come together to celebrate with Mass. Their enthusiasm as they sing and dance is inspiring and brings much joy to all present. For me, to live by the motto of Veritas is about coming closer to knowing the core truths of life and I have learnt much from children.



I asked two of my nieces what advice they would give to adults about having fun, feeling sad and what children like and don’t like that adults do or say. Here are Molly-Jane and Iris in their own words.

**Molly-Jane (10 yrs)**

For fun - do what you enjoy doing. Think about what you liked to do when you were a kid. Read stuff you love. Go through your good memories. If you are sad go to a nice place that you really like and sit down in peace and quiet. Think about what you really want. Throw away your sad thoughts and go and do what you really want to do.

When you are talking to children tell us about life, and what life is about, what you can do and how fun is life. How fun was your journey around life? But don't give too many details and information. I don't like it when adults are angry with me because they are in a hurry.

### **Iris (13 yrs)**

To have fun read a good book, watch a good movie, spend time with your friends, do something you enjoy. Spend time with friendly cats and dogs. Walk in nature, do some gardening, cook something. If you are sad actively imagine.

For example: Go up in a hot air balloon. As you go higher imagine the sand bags are your negative thoughts. Drop sandbags and go higher and higher. Or my favourite imagination adventure is to put all my negative thoughts into a crate, tie it with heavy chains and then tie ribbon over the chains. Then imagine 50 doves use the ribbon to fly it away. It goes further and further until it disappears forever. (I learnt this from Relax Kids. It works.) Then I distract myself. Sometimes it's good to distract yourself with things you can feel like touching sequin cushions, playing with slime or kinetic sand, jelly or flour. There is a website called ASMR which is full of things that make satisfying sounds. Another one is called "Oddly Satisfying Videos" which is mentally soothing.

I love seeing my grandparents. They always have lollies in the cupboard and I like hearing their stories about their life and what it was like when they were my age and the things they did. It's always fun to be with the wider family. I like the bad jokes and everyone laughing and when adults are having fun. Some adults forget what it is like to be a kid and have adults tell you what to do all the time. I don't like it when adults try to hurry me just because they are in a hurry. I wish adults wouldn't tell me to get off my device and go outside when they are always on their own devices. Remember to play.

### **Moira:**

I encourage you to listen to the voices of children in your life.

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### **New Prior General of Dominican Order.**

Father Gerard Timonar- a priest from the Philippines.

Fr Gerard recalls St Dominic's words, "we (Dominicans) are preachers.'... Mission is not what we do. It is who we are. And if that is clear, everything will just follow." He invites us to "look at our very selves, to recognize what is our identity as preachers of the Gospel. We are preachers even when we are not preaching; we are preachers even when we are alone in serious study; we are preachers when we help the marginalized; we are preachers in all that we do. That is our identity."

