



*Lay Dominicans of Aotearoa, New Zealand.*

*Mai i Te Hiku o te Ika ki Te Waipounamu.*

**Newsletter- September 2021.**

**Greetings to Lay Dominicans and members of the wider Dominican Family.**

**I imagine that we have had a fruitful and rich time in our small and large groups- study, prayer, liturgy, eating and talking together over August both to celebrate the feast of St Dominic and the Re-dedication of our country, Aotearoa/New Zealand to its patron, the Blessed Virgin Mary. And then in our lockdowns, digital and phone contacts with each other. I think specially of our Dominicans in Auckland who are having to be the preventative amour of New Zealand. Blessings to you and many thanks.**

Just to give you information about those who are part of our small formally constituted groups.:

**Dom consult.**

**What is Domconsult?**

It is a small group of Dominican Lay folk who function as an executive group to respond to, consult, inform, those who are part of our national organic and responsive collective of Dominican Laity.

**Who is part of this group?**

There is a trio of wise women who hold our institutional history as precious and will respond to activities and events or initiate them as they see fit. They are:

**Susan Healy**

**Teresa McNamara**

**Moira Gallagher**

**Susan** is an alumna of the Maori Studies Department of the University of Auckland, and continues to explore and educate others in considerations of Maori/pakeha interactions. She edited and contributed to “Listening to the people of the land: Christianity, Colonisation and the Path to redemption” She is a contributor to the Tui Motu edition that has just achieved an award for breadth of contributions. She is a longtime member of Pax Christi. Susan lives with and cares for her mother in an Auckland Retirement Village.

**Teresa** is employed by the Auckland Catholic Diocese as Manager, Project, Systems and Performance. Until recently responsible for the youth mission of the diocese. She is the

administrator of the Dominican webpage and its Facebook page. She is an active member of the World Skills international network. Her photos of her daily walks in Auckland on Facebook are a delight.

**Moira tells us:**

My mother, Jeanne, is a faithful Dominican layperson and has been a great influence on me. I was educated by Dominican sisters in Dunedin and became a primary teacher. I taught in Waipukarau and then spent two years in the Dominican tertiary chaplaincy team in Auckland in the 1980s. I was fortunate to live and teach in Invercargill, Dunedin, Gore, and Wellington. My health deteriorated in my mid-thirties, I returned home to Dunedin and have lived a much quieter life since then. I have a small role with young children in a Dominican school, which I love. I'm also involved in the NZ Christian meditation community, the Dunedin Presbyterian/Catholic Dialogue group, and a wonderful Dominican study group.



**Auckland members are:**

- a) **Mary Johnson**, from our deaf community.
- b) **Margaret Fitzpatrick**, who is an adviser education, Primary, for the Auckland Catholic Diocese a member of the Blockhouse Bay parish, and a coordinator of Dominican Family gatherings, along with Helen Bergin.

- c) **Lyn Smith**—who says-

**I am Lyn Smith** and my Dominican connection is that I was DRS /DP at St Dominic's College in Henderson Auckland from June 1995 until June 2004.

I then worked at the Catholic Institute of Theology alongside Sr Helen Bergin OP until 2012.

I am current the secondary Religious Education Advisor for the Catholic Diocese of Auckland and I also work as a project developer for the National Centre for Religious Studies (Te Kupenga NCRS).

I am on the Parish Council at Our Lady of Lourdes Glen Eden. I am married to Bruce, love heavy rock music, my Landrover Defender Ezekiel, and we rescue cats (5) and bunnies (3).

## **Lower North island- Te Awa Rongopai:**

### **Angela Coleman---says:**

I have lived in PN for more than half my life. My first connection with Dominicans, was when I started Massey Uni in 1985- they were the chaplains. Currently I am part of the lower North Island Dominican group (the youngest). Also, I contribute poems and other writing to the Dominican website. My entire work life has been community based – adult education and now disability support. I don't like technology and ride a bike.

## **Te Wai Pounamu**

### **Kay Price. Tells us:**

I have been educated and influenced by Dominican sisters in Invercargill from the age of 5 until 18. Have always been drawn to the Dominican Way and after shifting back to Invercargill in the late 70s, joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> order (*as it was known then*) at St Catherine's. Shifted up to Christchurch in the 90s and felt isolated from the Dominicans, so was pleased to be invited to a national gathering in Auckland. I have felt very honoured to be part of the Dominican Mission and Justice team.

### **Willie Campbell says:**

I am a widow who has spent almost all her life living south of the Waitaki River. My initial Dominican formation was also below that river, at St Patrick's, Teschemakers in North Otago. My working life has been in education with young children, senior primary and then adults. I am the organist at my parish church and a member of a small study group that explores the practice of the Dominican Charism in our daily lives.

The other group that you may hear about from time to time is:

### **Dominican Family Mission and Justice Committee.**

This group was originally a Sisters Committee. It then expanded to include the Friars and later, Laity. It has been seen as an important source for the three branches of the Family to connect, share information and discuss how our mission translates into our daily lives. Individual members then take back to their own networks' information, challenges and resources. The environment in which we function has changed markedly in the last few years and it has been agreed that this group now has reached its useful time of completion. A final meeting to put it to rest is planned for later in the year.

Current members are:

Sisters= Helen Bergin, Mary-Anna Baird, Judith Robinson

Friars= Joe Parkinson, Chris Loughnan

Laity= Mary Betz, Mary Woods, Willie Campbell, Kay Price.

**It is, as is much, uncertain whether or not we will have a National Laity gathering in 2022.**

**We will keep you informed, but in the meantime keep the Dominican value of Community high in your lives.**

**Valuable Dominican Websites:**

<https://www.torch.op.org/about-torch.htm>

<https://www.godzdogz.op.org/>

<https://ophope.org/spirituality/>

<https://word.op.org/>

<https://www.op.org.au/>

<https://www.opcentral.org/about/spirituality>

**[Willie Campbell.](#)**

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