



International Dominican Foundation

October 2014

Prayer and Our Lady of the Rosary

“The Rosary is a school for learning true Christian perfection.” -Pope John XXIII



For Dominicans our life of prayer is not only common but deeply personal as well. It spills into our lives of study and ministry. The image of St. Dominic's breviary (l), which fr. Gaspar de Roja Sigaya, the Order's archivist provided, indicates how central the prayer of the Church is for us. Tradition has also handed on to us another simpler way of prayer echoing the 150 psalms, and that is the rosary with its fifteen decades and 150 Aves. Whether we are in the chapel, at our desk, on the road, or in the pulpit we are enriched by the *vita orationis*, the marriage of who God calls us to be and how we live this Truth. As we celebrate this month of Our Lady of the Rosary may we be immersed in the varieties of prayer echoing her prayer, “thy will be done.”

fr Michael



Changes at IDEO in Cairo

The work of the Dominican Friars in Cairo began in 1953 as a team of scholars “committed to the dialogue among cultures and religions.” The early founders were friars Georges Chehata Anawati, Jacques Jomier, and Serge de Beaurecueil who answered the request of the Holy See to comprise a team of scholars and researchers wishing to promote a better understanding among Christians and Muslims. For over 60 years the Dominicans have continued this presence in Cairo.

To achieve this mission the Dominicans dedicate themselves to: **study** Islam through its primary sources at a high academic level; **provide** researchers and students with a library specializing in Islam; **publish** research articles in the academic journal, MIDEO; **live** out their vocations as Christian religious in a Muslim majority country; and **welcome** all who are interested in dialogue between different cultures and religions.

For the last 14 years fr. Jean-Jacques Perennes (above right) has been the director of IDEO, which has contributed a great deal to the study of Islam and dialogue between cultures. The past years of social change in Egypt have challenged the community in Cairo. The Dominican presence has remained a still point in the heart of Cairo itself, near the University of al-Azhar and just blocks from Tahrir Square where the demonstrations of 2013 took place.

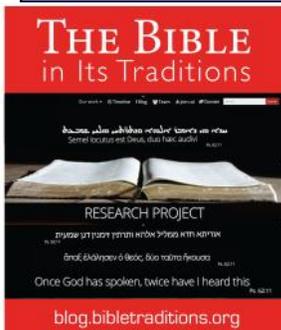
This month Fr Perennes ends his time as director and a successor will be named. For the moment fr Jean Druel is the interim director but he has also been a Regular Member of IDEO since 2002, when he arrived after having done his studies in theology and Coptic Patrology at the Catholic Institute in Paris. He recently completed a PhD on the history of Arabic grammar at the University of Nijmegen, in the Netherlands and is teaching in Cairo. In a [French interview](#) he commented “Understanding a country, its culture, its words is the best way to defuse the bombs.”

We wish the soon to be named new director every blessing, extend gratitude to fr Jean Jacques and give thanks for the legacy of the Dominican friars in Cairo.



The Bible in Its Traditions:

[An Exciting New Blog Worth Seeing](#)

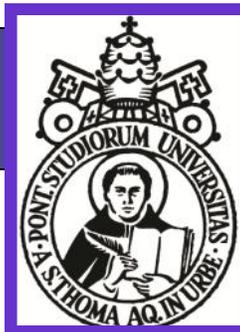


The Annual International Meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association of America (CBA) took place at Providence College, Providence, RI between July 26 and 29, 2014. Among the continuing seminars at the 2014 Annual Meeting, “The Bible in Its Traditions: First Achievements on Hosea and James” gathered biblical scholars from the USA, Canada, Europe, and Jerusalem. This year’s seminar was convened by Rev. Marcel Sigrist, Director of École Biblique et Archéologique Française in Jerusalem, O.P. Rev. Olivier-Thomas Venard, O.P., is the Project Director of B.E.S.T. (La Bible en ses traditions / The Bible in Its Traditions) and has shared the remarkable work being done. BEST’s goal is to create a comprehensive research, study, and reading tool for the Bible, emphasizing the variety of traditions in the biblical text, and the depth and breadth of its interpretations throughout centuries, persuasions, and disciplines. There is [a new blog](#) with links that tell you about the work being done, the scholars researching the projects and the progress being made. NOTE be sure to scroll down the blog for some very exciting news. There is a schema of the [Research Project](#) resembling the Periodic Table of the Elements. When you click on one of the symbols, for example **Ge** for Genesis a window pops up linking you to [the Team](#) of researchers, which tells you the scholars and their affiliation. It also allows you to see the Resources and how you can join the research project. You may also view a use friendly [Timeline](#) which tells the story of the École from 1890 to the present and its work on B.E.S.T.



The Pontifical University of St. Thomas

Alumni Newsletter



HELP! I am amazed that given just how connected everyone claims to be by social media that we still don’t know about great opportunities. If you studied or taught or visited the Angelicum in Rome, or if you have your Pontifical Degree from an affiliated institution then you need, no you **MUST** know about this site. The Alumni Newsletter offers you [Alumni Updates and News](#) about the University and its former students, an [easy way for you to host an event](#) in your area with other alumni, and [alumni in the news are spot lighted](#) and there is even a place to connect with one another through the [Alumni Network](#). This is a great way to keep in touch nationally and internationally.

MARK your calendars for March 7th, this year and the next and the next! The most important Celebration, Fundraising and Homecoming Event at the Angelicum is the [Angelicum Alumni Achievement Award](#) held on March 7 every year, the old feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, the Patron Saint of the University. This is a day of celebration filled with events for alumni and members of the Angelicum Community, including current and alumni faculty, staff and students as well as friends and benefactors of the Angelicum.

Be sure to check out the Ange’s [Facebook](#), [Picasa](#), and [YouTube](#) accounts.

Want to know more?

Click on these three links to watch.

[Jerusalem video](#)

[Rome video](#)

[Cairo video](#)

Tell us which video is your favorite [here](#).



Help Comes in many ways

Want to do just one little thing to help? Scared to try? There are hundreds of ways you can help and it doesn't require your writing a big check, in fact the reality is you end up being enriched by helping to support a good cause. Here are six more fun things to do to help support the works of the Foundation. If you can think of other fun ways to help raise awareness or support for the International Dominican Foundation [send us an email!](#) Your creativity and imagination are most welcome.

For other "Ways to Help" (# 1-24) see previous newsletters [here](#).



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Simple Soup Supper

Challenge a group of friends, or several families, a club you belong to or your lay Dominican chapter to forego one meal a week for a month or a year and replace it with a simple soup supper. Donate the difference in cost between the regular meal and the simpler one to support the works of the Foundation. Ask everyone to take the time in prayer for one of the projects in Jerusalem, Rome or Cairo. Simple things can mean the most.



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Creative Crafts Catalogue Collection

Organize fellow crafters to put together a collection of crafts and DIY projects to be made into a special collection binder that can be sold to help support the works being done by the projects. If you like, we can help you with the print process and ways to sell and support.



LIKE us on Facebook

Help us build up our social community on Facebook so that all the good things being done in Jerusalem, Rome and Cairo can be shared by all.

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Loose change can help to change a lot!

Everyone has those odd coins that sit around the house, in your car cup holder, even in your couch. For one year set aside the loose change you find and each time you have a few coins throw them into a jar to help the works of the Foundation. Everyone doing a little can help a student afford studies, a scholar complete the research, or a rare manuscript preserved for future generations. Remember the widow's mite.

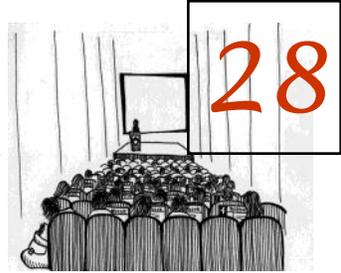
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Fun Family Feud

Challenge all your cousins and kin on your mom's side of the family to out do your dad's side of the family in raising money for the Foundation. Great way to reconnect families and help a good cause. Set a deadline to see which side won. Winners get life long bragging rights over the "other side" of the family. Send photos for us to post.

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Adopt a Prof

You can find out about the scholars, teachers, and professors at links for the [École](#), the [Angelicum](#) and [Cairo](#). Just go to these pages and follow the links to the various teachers. Pledge to make a donation in the name of one or several of them.

Send your donations to:

The International Dominican Foundation
1 Galleria Blvd Suite 710-B
Metairie, LA 70001

[Tell us about your event!](#)

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