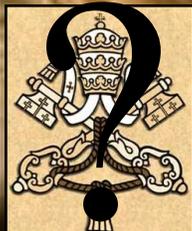




International Dominican Foundation

MARCH 2013

Veni, Sancte Spiritus

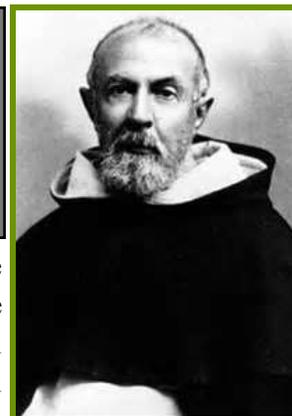


Unexpected, Pope Benedict's stepping down as the Holy Father was certainly unexpected. Even so, his unexpected action tells us something about the Holy Spirit and God's grace in our world. I have heard many commentators speak of Pope Benedict XVI's action as a model of humility. Others have seen the action as demonstrating great wisdom. Now the future Bishop of Rome will be elected by the College of Cardinals in secret conclave. May they be guided by the Holy Spirit and may the Lord bless the Church of Christ and His Vicar.

The world will know soon who will head the Roman Catholic Church at this critical moment in time. Perhaps when you read this it will already be known. Trusting in God's Spirit we can and should expect the unexpected. Come Holy Spirit. *Veni, Sancte Spiritus*



Founder of the
École biblique et archéologique française de Jérusalem
Marie-Joseph Lagrange, O.P.
7 March 1855, – 10 March 1938
Diamond Anniversary



March 10th marks 75 years since the death of Marie-Joseph Lagrange who in 1890 founded the *French Biblical and Archaeological School of Jerusalem* and then the *Bible Review*. These achievements were born from the long and hard efforts of many that we often fail to recall. When he was a newly professed Dominican in 1880 the anticlericalism of the Third French Republic had suppressed religious houses. The Dominicans of Toulouse took refuge in Spain and Lagrange was sent to do oriental studies in Vienna three years later. He captured Dominican life saying "Prayer and study, alternating harmoniously, made up our life." He wrote well of the Dominican search for Truth saying:



What do men expect of us? The answer is clear. They come to us looking for the "science of the saints"... or at least, for that knowledge which makes men Christian, I mean the apostolic truth taught in the Church. Let this be clearly understood. Such a science will always be imperfect and capable of further growth, but it should be able to keep step with the considerable progress made by scientific methods. The popular sciences of our day are an indispensable help for philosophy, and scholarship has extended the field of history in a prodigious manner. Inscriptions are revealing new languages, new institutions and unknown facts, opening up to us the milieu in which the doctrine of salvation has grown. One must therefore note what has helped or hindered the progress of Christianity. The horizon is immense, the way difficult, the roads different, but the aim is always the same. No one can master completely all the aspects of sacred science; that staggering task must be shared.

[The Work of Père LaGrange by F.-M. Braun, O.P. adapted by Richard T. A. Murphy, O.P.(1963) pp.8-9]

THE BIBLE
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The International Dominican Foundation Speaker's Tour

Further details will be posted [HERE!](#)



The 200 Authors Project: In the course of December 2012, the Dominican institute received the confirmation of the funding by the **European Union** of a research project that will mobilize us during the three years to come, and that we called **The 200 Project**. Three scholars from IDEO and four young Egyptian scholars will commit together to the thorough study of the work of two-hundred authors from the *turâth*, the Arab-Muslim heritage of the first millennium of Islam.

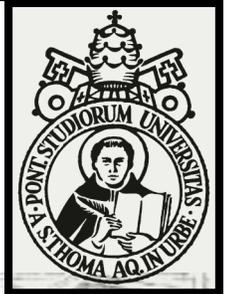
The aim is to set the frame of each author's intellectual environment, in particular by establishing the relations of their works and those of the other main authors of the *turâth*. This will be made possible by developing the Al-Kindi v.4 Project because the new classification standards will allow us to integrate this set of complex relations inside the library catalogue.

Transition: "Transition" is the state our library was in this morning, when some of the army's airplanes flew over it to remind its presence over Cairo in such a dim period, and echoing general Abdul Fattah al-Sissi's warning of a risk of "State Collapse". It is a true transition indeed, as IDEO stays mobilized for the 200 Project and settles the grounds for the new team of scholars to settle in our premises.

The Library had to close its doors to the readers for several weeks so that we organize a specific work place that will be dedicated to the 200 Project: an office will be saved for the scholars team who will have their own tools and essential books, so that the library fully maintains its usual activities. [READ MORE](#)

My First Day in Rome Part 2/2

by Karl Stuebe



Next year will be even more splendid than the first for me as I am beginning to get a grip on the language and have discovered where the most economical shopping for food is. Without the aid of the William E. Simon scholarship I do not think there would have been a second semester. It was such a succor for me after having been blindsided with all the obligatory spending required to live this beautiful city so as to study in such a fine institution. Now that I am destined to stay I intend to start a mini-program for incoming independent lay students such as myself and to show them the ropes of Rome. With this in place we can be sure that they will be able to streamline their budget, learn what is necessary spending and where there is a cheaper option. A very practical example is when I paid 2 euro for a loaf of bread and my Italian roommate showed me where I can buy bread for 75 cents. With such savings on their personal budgets I hope to give back to the William E. Simon Scholarship by ensuring that incoming American students who have had their bank accounts drained will not require as much from the fund so that it may be spread to support more students. I am a firm believer in a certain Dominican aspect that would say education is a vocation. A person's vocation should not be deferred or even unfulfilled because they could not afford it. Great things lie in store for the future of our Church at the Angelicum and a large section of it is in the form of the lay students who courageously take a chance on a place where they usually have no friends, family, community, and knowledge of the language. The recipients of the William E Simon scholarship, especially first years, possess an unwavering appreciation for the aid it provides. Before the scholarship many of us frantically search for employment which usually requires fluency in Italian which creates stress since we are unemployable or if we do work we work so much that it subtracts from our studies and there is no minimum wage in Italy. It can mean not going home for a while and praying that you do not become ill or injured causing you to miss work or school and pay for treatment.

It is important to know that I have never heard any of the lay students 'putting on the poor mouth' as my grandmother would have said. We make due because we love studying at the Angelicum and being in Rome. Part of the situation is making ends meet and in a champion fashion without murmuring this is done. Even if we had known all the variables that exist we would have still decided to study in Rome. The education preparing us for our futures of diverse service to the Church does not contain a price tag or certain number of work hours.

I thank you for helping all of us as we discover our vocations in service to the Church. This opportunity to study in Rome, at the heart of Christianity, provides an incomparable joy and quickens our spirits as we contemplate our Lord in relation to the lectures, ourselves in relation to the Chair of Peter, and our benefactors who so graciously make thinking upon these things and subsequent action a possibility. [Karl's story reflects what many students face and how your support benefits their study. [Read Part 1 in the February Newsletter.](#)]

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