



International Dominican Foundation

AUGUST 2012

Holy Father Dominic Herald of Grace, Pray for US.



Saint Dominic founded a band of preachers in 1215, and by December of 1216 Pope Honorius III established them as the ‘Order of Preachers.’ Dominic’s vision was unique. It called for study so the friars could engage the issues and questions of their days. It also required mobility so the friars could easily be moved from place to place, going where there was greatest need. Another aspect of this mobility, or being itinerant, was that a friar from southern Italy could be sent to Germany, or Paris, or England. Meeting different customs and cultures enriched the Order’s preaching. We can appreciate why one title given to St. Dominic has been that of ‘Herald of Grace.’

In the month of August we celebrate the feast of St. Dominic, founder of the Dominican Order, whose great unrealized wish was to preach to the Tartars. This spirit of evangelization has marked the Order for nearly 800 years, and the International Dominican Foundation works to support that mission. The impulse to leave home and proclaim the gospel in the hinterlands also inspired Dominic to disperse the early band of friars, sending four to Spain, seven to Paris, two to Toulouse, and two stayed at Prouille. For some the challenges were difficult. Uncertain circumstances, dependency on alms, and strange new societies all made the mission difficult, but by God’s grace and the friars trusting in God’s providential care these missions grew.

I have been impressed by the works being done by the projects IDF supports and by the dedication of all those involved in its mission. We are at a time of transition, of economic uncertainty and political unrest. I am encouraged by that same grace and providential care the early friars found. The IDF projects continue this mission of St. Dominic, and your support is much appreciated. Dominic knew that ‘grain hoarded rots’ and now more than ever we must be ‘heralds of grace’ sowing the good seed.

fr. Michael Demkovich, op

I.D.E.O. Hope for Egypt’s Future



CAIRO— In 2009 the first gathering of Dominican students took place to learn about the work of IDEO. This meeting was for English speakers and gathered friars from all over the world. The four US provinces were well represented. Brothers Augustine Reisenauer of **St. Joseph Province**; Ambrose Sigman of the **Holy Name Province**; Luke Barder and Paul Byrd of **St. Albert the Great Province**; and Augustine DeArmond of **St. Martin de Porres Province** attended. In 2011 IDEO sponsored a similar gathering for French speakers, and IDEO also sponsors a three-year program in Lille, France studying: I) The Qur’an; II) The Prophet Mohammed; and III) Islamic Law, respectively. Brother Luke Barder said, “The IDEO is one of the few places in the country [Egypt] where Muslims and Christians can engage each other on a social and intellectual level. IDEO’s library is where East and West meet.” This is very hopeful amid the struggles facing Egypt. Brother Augustine DeArmond added, “They gather scholars, teachers, religious leaders, and various people of both the Coptic and Muslim traditions who have lived experiences in their cultural contexts. The IDEO’s program is a unique opportunity for Dominican student brothers to learn more about the worldwide order and to engage critical religious and social issues all in one place.” Truly IDEO is an important project, a sign of hope, and a real herald of grace.



picture courtesy Br. Luke Barder, op

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the Holy Bible: BEST Book in History!



JERUSALEM—No other book has been bought and read by more people than the Bible. So what more can be said? There isn't a Hollywood sequel, a prequel, or even a reboot planned. The stories are not going to change. So why invest time, resources, a lifetime of research, into something so well read, so well known?

Because it is so well known, so well read, that is exactly what the BEST project is all about! The **École Biblique** in Jerusalem has an exciting project that is bringing together all that people have said about these inspiring works. Imagine being able to easily access what people were saying about Moses during the time when Columbus left the shores of Europe and met strange new worlds, a new promised land. Or what Muslims in Spain thought about St. Paul. How one Bible passage was interpreted from one generation to the next. What rang true in each age? What new insights emerged given new times? That is exactly what BEST is working on! Old style scholarship, made available in exciting interactive technology.



(front) fr. **Hervé Ponsot**, Director of BEST Project shows fr **Michael Demkovich**, President of IDF and (standing) **Judy Gerth**, Director of the American Friends of the École and fr. **Marcel Sigrist**, President of the École Biblique, some of the latest developments on the BEST Project.

BEST stands for the 'Bible and its traditions,' which in French gives us BEST (English wouldn't work as well). This project is a long term work and requires numerous scholars contributing to the research and writing, web engineers and designers working on both sites for the scholars and user friendly sites for people to benefit from this work, as well as administrators to coordinate scholars, web engineers, and all the important work that makes a project run smoothly. Your support of BEST is important. The IDF works to provide financial support for this important project, and your contribution will have a lasting impact. A project like this needs BIG support, so your help in prayer or in talking with people about it could really help. Imagine what a million dollar endowment could do to help annually support this ongoing engagement with God's word in the Sacred Scriptures and how it has touched the hearts of billions throughout time.



ROME—With a history that goes back to St. Thomas Aquinas teaching at the Roman *studium conventuale* and the *Collegium Divi Thomae* established in 1577, the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas (**PUST**) has lasted through the centuries. Of course its present 'new site' was acquired in 1928 and was already an old monastery. But even in the 'eternal city' time takes its toll. IDF has been proud to support the **Angelicum** in scholarships (from the **William Simon Scholarship**, the **McCadden-McQuirk Fund**, and the **Réginald de Rocquois Scholarship**). The Angelicum needs to tend not just the minds of future generations to preach and teach, but it also has real 'nuts and bolts needs' now, and the library has been in need of major works, as you can see.

Your support for this project is critical and literally 'foundational' for a library is one of the key resources for learning. This project could not be put off any longer, and works are underway. Again IDF is looking for large hearted donors who can help us. Brick and mortar grants are hard to come by, but without such structures all that is meant to take place comes to a stop. If you have the means, please consider helping. If you know of generous souls who might help, please talk to them. Together, with God's help, we can build on a solid foundation of study, prayer, and service.

Help us update

Please take a moment and help us update our address and email for you or add that of a friend.

Drop Us a Note

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Many Thanks!