



## Learning to be free.

Plato and the Ancients believed that democracy was one of the least desirable forms of government for it could too easily degenerate into tyranny. Thomas Aquinas held to a mixed form of government:

*Accordingly, the best form of government is in a state or kingdom, where one is given the power to preside over all; while under him are others having governing powers: and yet a government of this kind is shared by all, both because all are eligible to govern, and because the rules are chosen by all. For this is the best form of polity, being partly kingdom, since there is one at the head of all; partly aristocracy, in so far as a number of persons are set in authority; partly democracy, i.e. government by the people, in so far as the rulers can be chosen from the people, and the people have the right to choose their rulers. I-II q.105 a.1*

The issue of democracy has marked this month, as the U.S. celebrated its Independence Day the people of Egypt struggled to retrieve their democratic direction. There is a danger in all this and that is why it is important for us in our modern view to learn from the past. Democracy is dangerous if unchecked and reduced to mob rule or tyrannical control. This is why the study and scholarship going on at the Foundation's projects, especially in Cairo and Rome, warrant your support. Our world is in need of the wisdom that time has tested and that great minds have engaged over the centuries. Fundamentalism and fanaticism have never been the work of the Spirit. Only in study and dialogue will humankind achieve the rich blessings of freedom. This is why your help is so important! We are still learning to be free.

fr Michael

*Come then, tell me, dear friend, how tyranny arises. That it is an outgrowth of democracy is fairly plain.*

*Yes, plain.*

*Is it, then, in a sense, in the same way in which democracy arises out of oligarchy that tyranny arises from democracy?*

*How is that?*

*The good that they proposed to themselves and that was the cause of the establishment of oligarchy--it was wealth, was it not?*

*Yes.*

*Well, then, the insatiate lust for wealth and the neglect of everything else for the sake of money-making were the cause of its undoing.*

Plato *The Republic* Book VIII

## Letter from CAIRO



July 4, 2013



Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

Thanks for your kind messages, which have been very supportive in difficult hours. We feel released now, and are much more positive than the international press, which is obsessed by the "military coup" without seeing then consensus with which this has been done.

The bloodshed has been avoided and the unity of the Egyptian people is amazing. I will never forget the joy of the past night, everybody celebrating in the streets till the early morning. The military do not want to be in charge. It will be the duty of the Egyptian political parties to build together a project, based on a Constitution approved by a majority of Egyptians and not imposed like the one which was imposed by Morsi a few months ago. It is a long way to go, but it might make a big difference within a few years, if political Islam has been really marginalized.

We are OK in the priory. This week-end we will welcome 12 to 14 Dominican friars for a 10 day international workshop on Islam and Interreligious dialogue.

Life continues. We are very happy to live here and witness such moments, even if we have been quite worried at some stage.

Thanks for your support, friendship and prayers.

Your brother  
fr. Jean Jacques

## The Annual Board Meeting

Each year the Board of Directors of the International Dominican Foundation holds its annual meeting the day prior to the USCCB's meeting. For the first time we invited a number of Bishops, alumni of the **Angelicum** and Friends of the Foundation, to join us for a brief social. It was a great time to connect and to build bridges in support of the Foundation's projects in Jerusalem, Rome and Cairo. The work of the International Dominican Foundation isn't just about Dominicans. The Biblical study in Jerusalem, the Theological teaching in Rome and the inter-religious work in Cairo all benefit the entire Church. Cardinal Egan



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### Celebrate the Eight! Your support is critical.

2016 marks the 800th anniversary of the Dominican Order and we need your help. These are significant times and the needs are equally significant. In order to support these projects in Jerusalem, Rome and Cairo the Foundation is turning to you. As a way to **Celebrate the Eight!** please consider sending your loose change or your extra cash. 8¢ a day, 80¢ a week, \$8 a month, \$80 a quarter, or \$800 a year. Every bit helps and the projects, which do so much good for the Church, are in real need. Please send your donation to:

International Dominican Foundation  
Attn. Celebrate the Eight!  
1 Galleria Blvd, Suite 710-B  
Metairie, LA 70001 USA



Fr. Michael and Mrs Louise Jordan with our newest Board members Mrs Jean Stark and Mr. Rich Doran

## The École Biblique



[View 2013-2014 Program of Study Here](#)

### International academic relations

The École Biblique has partnerships with:

- The French Research Center in Jerusalem
- The French Institute of the Middle East Jerusalem
- The Studium Biblicum Franciscanum Jerusalem
- The Hebraique University of Jerusalem
- The Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres, Paris
- L'Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris
- The National Centre for Scientific Research, Paris
- The Catholic Institute of Paris
- The University of Strasbourg
- The Ecole Normale Supérieure of the rue d'Ulm, Paris
- The Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome
- The University of Fribourg, Switzerland
- St. John's College, USA

In recent years, the school develops relationships with:

- The Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, called the "Angelicum", Rome
- The University of Jerusalem Al Quds
- The University of Bir Zeit
- The National Heritage Institute, Paris
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Many Thanks!