



# International Dominican Foundation

DECEMBER 2014

## Promise: A New Advent of Hope



This icon of our “Lady of the New Advent” by Fr. Bill McNichols is used with his permission. You can see this and many other beautiful icons at his [website](#). He is a lay Dominican and there is a section on Dominican saints worth seeing.

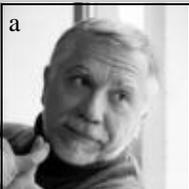
This year especially we look for hope, the promise of a new moment. The gruesome tyranny of human evil plagues us in so many ways. Advent and Christmas are a time of promise, a pledge that is being fulfilled. Contained within the days of Advent is the feast of the Immaculate Conception, this promise that defied even the original sin of humankind. It also calls us to cherish the mystery of the promise in the antiphons from December 17th to Christmas, called the [O antiphons](#) which tell of the titles of the Messiah and sing of the prophesy of Isaiah and the coming of the Messiah. In Christmas and in the Christmas Octave the birth of our Lord marks the moment of God’s promise, the birth of his well loved Son. The Church reminds us even in the midst of this celebration that the challenge of our witness, our bearing testimony, giving birth to the Church is real, for on December 26 we celebrate the proto-martyr St. Stephen. And later in the week the feast of St. John the Evangelist reminds us of the gospel’s mystery from the beginning of time.

In his first encyclical in 1979 Pope John Paul II spoke of our being in the time of a New Advent, a season of expectation. At a time when the world and world religions seem mired in the evil that divides we long for a season of hope, a New Advent of promise. May Our Lady Intercede for Us.

God bless,  
*fr Michael*

## News from Cairo, I.D.E.O.

Department of the [West Catholic University in Angers](#), France. The theme was “Are Religions Telling the Truth? The epistemological status of the Religious Doctrines According to [G. Lindbeck](#)’s Linguistic Metaphor.” **November 15th** fr. [Emmanuel Pisani](#) (b) took part in a meeting organized by the [GAIC](#) (The Islamo-Christian Friendship Group) at the [Great Mosque of Paris](#) on the theme “Death and the Hereafter.” His talk was on “The Hereafter in Light of Christian Hope.” **November 16th** on the following day, fr. Emmanuel also took part in [the Day of Tolerance](#) held in the town hall of the 15th arrondissement (Paris) and gave a talk titled: “Tolerance, Democracy, Religions”. **November 17th** fr. [René-Vincent du Grandlaunay](#) (c) contributed to a study day in Paris called “Tools, Method, and Corpora: Data Modeling in Social Sciences” held by [the CNRS](#) and the National Institute of Art History. He presented the 4th version of AIKindi and IDEO’s first results in the treatment and visualization of bibliographical data of the classical Arab heritage. **November 23rd** fr. [Adrien Candiard](#) (d) took part in a discussion about “Philosophy, Religions, Tolerance” in Lyon, as part of [the festival Mode d’Emploi](#) at the [Villa Gillet](#). He also gave four other talks in different parts of France on his book [En finir avec la tolérance?](#) published by [PUF](#) Editors earlier this year. See the IDEO Newsletter [read more](#)



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## News from the École Biblique:

### Celebrating the Feast St Stephen



On December 26 in the West and December 27 in the East Christians celebrate the Feast of St. Stephen, deacon and first martyr for the Faith. His story is recounted in The Acts of the Apostles, chapter 7. The Dominican community in Jerusalem is the Convent of St. Stephen and it is believed that the tomb of St Stephen is on the site of this monastery. On his feast day the Dominicans host a great celebration both in prayer and a great feast, joined by invited guests and dignitaries. The École Biblique is a ministry of the Dominicans of St. Etienne and have been in Jerusalem since 1884 when they purchased the site.



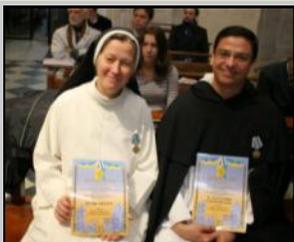
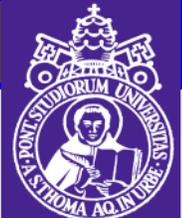
The location of St. Stephen's tomb was unknown until 415, when a priest named Lucian learned through a revelation of its location. The relics were then exhumed and carried first to the church of Mount Sion, then, in 460, to the basilica erected by Eudocia outside the Damascus Gate, on the spot where, according to tradition, the stoning had taken place. It is this site of the Eudocian basilica that the Dominicans identified and it was on this site of the old foundation where a new basilica was erected.



The Dominican Order and every preacher holds St. Stephen in special regard for his passionate witness to the Gospel and his final words bidding God's mercy, "Lord, do not count this sin against them."

**THE BIBLE**  
in Its Traditions

## News from the Angelicum: The Ukraine



Through its faculty, students, and alumni, the Angelicum touches many parts of the world. In its generations of teaching and formation the Angelicum has provided theologians and ministers contributing to Catholic life and thought around the world. The Pontifical University of St. Thomas has touched every corner of the globe, from Christian nations to exotic lands, from peaceful places to war torn regions. Recently two events have called attention to the Angelicum and the realities that face the Ukraine. Archbishop Svyatoslav Shevchuk of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church was recently interviewed by "The Vatican Insider" said

"We cannot leave ecumenism in the hands of diplomats, politicians or theologians alone: we need to preach it in the parishes" ([read more](#)). He is an alumnus of the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas Angelicum where in 2006 he obtained a Doctorate in theology. Early in November Sr. Helen Alford and Fr. Alejandro Crossthwaite were recognized by the International Accademia Fortuna d'Oro. Prof. **Alejandro Crossthwaite, OP**, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, was recognized for his contribution to the training of young Ukrainians and the development of their Christian social conscience. Prof. **Helen Alford, OP**, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, was recognized for her contribution to the cohesion of the Ukrainian community in Rome and the female leadership of the community in education and promotion of social policies. Read more at the Angelicum blog spot [HERE](#).

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**Many Thanks!**





## *Prayer for the Jubilee of the Order*

God, Father of mercy,  
 who called your servant Dominic  
 de Guzman  
 to set out in faith  
 as an itinerant pilgrim and a  
 preacher of grace,  
 as we prepare to celebrate the  
 Jubilee of the Order  
 we ask you to pour again into us  
 the Spirit of the Risen Christ,  
 that we might faithfully and  
 joyfully proclaim  
 the Gospel of peace,  
 through the same Jesus Christ  
 our Lord. Amen

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*Deus, Pater misericordiae,  
 qui servum tuum Dominicum de  
 Guzmán vocasti  
 ad dirigendos pedes in viam fidei,  
 et ad prædicandum Evangelium  
 divinæ gratiæ;  
 dum ad celebrandum Ordinis  
 Iubilæum contendimus,  
 supplices te rogamus, ut Spiritum  
 Christi semper viventis  
 ad interpellandum pro nobis denuo  
 infundas cordibus nostris;  
 sic enim fideliter et lætanter  
 annuntiabimus Evangelium pacis.  
 Per eundem Christum Dominum  
 nostrum. Amen.*

## Want to know more?

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