



International Dominican Foundation

MAY & JUNE 2015

Grace abounds all the more . . .

In March all seemed to be moving along so nicely. Lent was nearing its end and Holy Week would begin the first week in April. The New Promise of Easter was nearing and things seemed to be all in order for the IDFUSA's transition to a new phase. But then things began to turn and it seemed as though one set back was being met by another. March 5th Cardinal Egan, Chair of the Board passed away and the following week long time friend of the Foundation, Cardinal George also slipped from this life to the next. One of our board members, Fr. Paul Watkins had congestive heart failure and at the same time the IDF website was hacked forcing us to shut down. Not long after that I learned I needed heart surgery and another board member potentially needed back surgery. These are just a few of the challenges that hit in March and into May.

Challenges are what make life interesting. Overcoming them is what makes it meaningful.

You know the saying "Where there is sin, grace abounds all the more" well it is true. Though at the time it seemed like we were living through a modern day Job story, grace in fact was hard at work. The entire experience has made me aware of the hidden workings of God. I am reminded of the Gospel image of how the flowers grow, unbothered they are clothed most beautifully. My prayers during those days of challenge were always to our Lady, the Order's most wonderful advocate. Her intercession, I believe helped to make things fall into place. Within a six week period the challenges that seemed to fatally loom before us vanished.

As we work through the transition, I will serve as President Emeritus while Fr. Allen Moran, O.P. will assume the role of President. The new vision and mission of IDFUSA that the Board worked to frame the last three years is already proving to be a wise move. Our annual meeting of the corporation, held in St. Louis during the meeting of the USCCB went remarkably well despite a telephone conference call-in hiccup. We were able to cover all our business in a luncheon meeting and that evening we hosted a reception for bishops and friends. Some were former students of the Angelicum and some the bishops of our Keystone Diocese. You can read more on page 2.



Let us continue to keep the good works of the International Dominican Foundation in our prayers and promote the efforts of the Order in Jerusalem, Rome and Cairo. Now more than ever your help is needed to build up a network of friends. Please share with others our [website](#), our [facebook page](#), and our [links to the projects](#). Truly Grace abounds and the challenges that seemed so insurmountable have been vanquished. We are at a new moment as you will see from the stories in this double issue.

Many thanks and God bless,
fr Michael

Help us update and add new supporters! *Please take a moment and help us update our address and email.*
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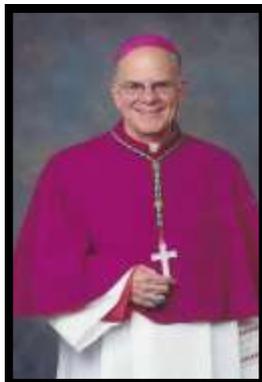
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Many Thanks!



WELCOME to IDFUSA New Faces



We are very pleased to introduce some of our newest members of the IDFUSA family. At our annual Board of Directors meeting held June 10 in St. Louis we inducted four new board members. They are left to right **Bishop Joseph Pepe** of the Diocese of Las Vegas, **Bishop Edward Weisenburger** of the Diocese of Salina, **Rev. Allen Moran** of St. Gertrude Priory in Cincinnati and **Mr. Steven McKernan** Chief Executive Officer of UNM Hospital at University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center in Albuquerque. The Board unanimously voted in all four of these members and approved the Master of the Order's recommendation of Fr. Moran, OP to be the next President of the International Dominican Foundation effective July 1, 2015. Bishop Pepe is a graduate of the Angelicum holding his degree in Canon Law from there. He shared with the board that his years at the Angelicum were a great experience with excellent professors and a dedicated Dominican community. Bishop Weisenburger confessed that he didn't have a connection to the Ange but a great love for the work of the Dominicans especially as they are to serve in his diocese. Fr. Moran was unable to attend due to previous commitments out of the country but in previous conversation he has shared his excitement over being part of the IDFUSA. Similarly Mr McKernan was unable to attend the meeting but sent word that he is looking forward to his time with the Foundation.

Another new face is that of **Mrs. Melanie Hoeman** of Metairie, Louisiana who came on board June 15th as the Executive Assistant in the IDFUSA office, replacing Mr. Dominique Monlezun. We wish Melanie all the best as she learns the nuts and bolts of the operation. She has already immersed herself in the projects, the software and the office.

We also said good bye to several individuals whose service on the IDFUSA Board ended. **Archbishop Thomas Rodi** of the Archdiocese of Mobile, Alabama and **Dr. Gene and Mrs Jean Stark** of Coral Gables, Florida. We are grateful to them for their dedication and service over the years and wish them every blessing.

Jerusalem



Rome

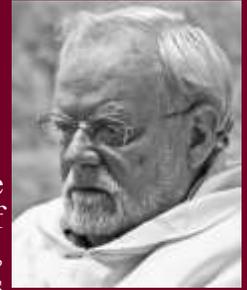


Cairo



2015 Speaker Tour:

New York, Florida, Oklahoma, Kansas



Each year the International Dominican Foundation tries to expand its outreach. Last year we were able to sponsor events in Missouri, Tennessee and Louisiana. We take advantage of Dominicans from the three projects in Jerusalem, Rome and Cairo. This year Fr. Marcel Sigrist, OP the Director of the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem will be our speaker. Every year he spends his summer months doing research and mentoring junior scholars in New Haven at Yale University and in Oklahoma City with the Green Scholars Initiative. He will be ending his time as director but will continue a long career of scholarship and publication. He is the author of numerous articles and books in the area of Mesopotamian Antiquity and Cuneiform. His most recent publications include Administration at The Drehem (a Neo-Sumerian Text from the Royal Ontario Museum, 1995), Administrative Texts Mainly from Umma (2004), Administrative Ur III Tablets from the British Museum (2006), and Catalogue of the Babylonian Tablets in the British Museum. Details are being finalized so watch for future notices!

Coming in August & September



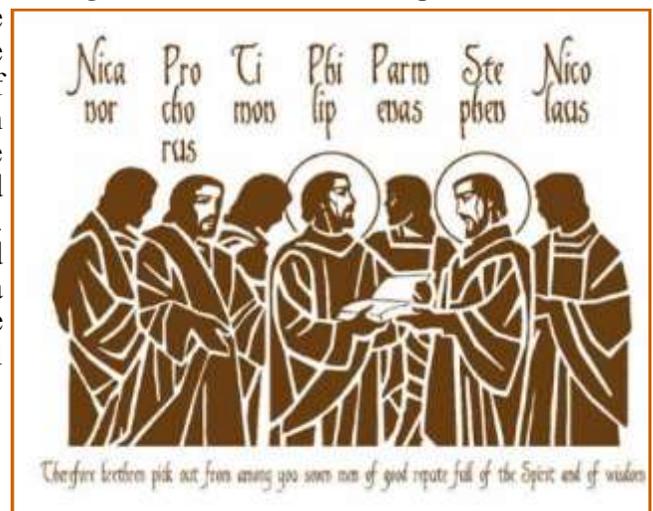
Exciting New Plans for 2016:

Retreat for Permanent Deacons and Wives

The Dominican Friars have been in Jerusalem since 1890 when Fr. Marie Joseph LaGrange, OP sought to study the texts of the Sacred Scriptures in the context of the Holy Land where they were written. The Dominican presence in Jerusalem pre-dates the State of Israel by half a century which was established in 1948. The Dominicans played a key role in the excavation of the original site of Jerusalem. The Convent of St. Stephen (*Couvent et basilique Saint-Étienne de Jérusalem*) where the Dominicans live is believed to stand on the site where the deacon and proto-martyr in the Acts of the Apostles, St. Stephen may have been stoned to death with a young Saul of Tarsus witnessing it. The Dominicans have welcomed students and scholars for decades but now has been inspired to open its doors to a special group of people who minister in our parishes week after week assisted and supported in many cases by their spouse. The mystery of marriage, the ministry of service found in the permanent deaconate.

We are working on the specifics but if you are interested in learning more or would like to plan ahead to the Summer of 2016 please send us an email. The plan is to provide an experience that is spiritually rich, bringing the Gospel to life by walking in His footsteps, and empowering a deeper sense of the call to service and the ministry of preaching. Living with Dominican scholars and experiencing the rich prayer life of the community provides a powerful experience for deacons and their wives to grow in the unique roles they play in our parishes. Visiting the sites surrounding Jerusalem that have been read about and preached on Sundays throughout the year will have a lasting impact. Opportunities to reflect on St. Stephen, the deaconate and apostolic preaching in the early church will further enhance an already rich experience for those who attend.

[For more information email us.](#)



Board Meeting: Old President and New Board!



1. The Board: (l-r) Fr. Izzo, Bishop Pepe, Bishop Flores, Fr Demkovich, Deacon Reilly, Fr. Watkins, Archbishop Sartain, Sr Catherine Marie, Mrs Jordan, Dr. Jordan, Fr. McGuire, Bishop Weisenburger, Fr. LeToile (five others called in). 2. Calling the meeting to order, welcoming the new chair. 3. Dominicans welcoming Bishop Weisenburger. 4. Board hard at work.

2015 marked a new moment for the International Dominican Foundation as we were able to implement the new structures and organization that were developed the previous years. This meant that the Board of Directors met as the corporation, reviewing and consulting on the work of the Executive, Assets Management and Institutional Advancement committees. Cardinal Egan was much missed but it was his recommendation that we meet during this period in the USCCB schedule which gave us 90 minutes to conduct our business. I am pleased to say that the Board completed the entire agenda with its reports, recommendations and resolutions. Bishop Flores assumed his role as Chair of the Board and was able to move all the business forward. Well done!

For a number of years IDFUSA had struggled with some unexpected expectations but during the last three years we have been able to clarify with the Master of the Order, Fr. Bruno Cadoré, OP and his Council the best way forward. This has meant a focusing of our efforts and greater collaboration with the projects in fund raising. We are now better able to plan events and appeals and to build the kind of community of friends and supporters that are so needed for an organization like IDFUSA. It has been a time for us as an organization to look within and see what works and what needed changing. In hind sight it is so true of the Christian call, to allow God to call forth the best. Such conversion speaks to the depths of a person and gives new meaning to life. So too for institutions and organizations. In his recent encyclical *Laudato si* Pope Francis tells us that all conversion is into Christ: *“Various convictions of our faith, developed at the beginning of this Encyclical can help us to enrich the meaning of this conversion. These include the awareness that each creature reflects something of God and has a message to convey to us, and the security that Christ has taken unto himself this material world and now, risen, is intimately present to each being, surrounding it with his affection and penetrating it with his light. Then too, there is the recognition that God created the world, writing into it an order and a dynamism that human beings have no right to ignore”* (221). It is truly the work of the projects to explore the hidden script of God in our world, in Scriptures, in the great Christian writers and in the God’s revelation in the religious traditions.



The Angelicum

As with all great academic institutions the Angelicum is able to enjoy the respite of summer, allowing its professors and students rest and more leisurely time for research and writing. No scholar is ever free from study and in fact her or she would feel strange absent the flow of ideas and insights. I have had the opportunity to meet numerous individuals, clergy, religious and lay, who were students at the “Ange” and each one recalls the time in Rome at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas with great affection. It makes perfect sense that we should try even harder to

establish a **National Alumni Gathering** here in the US for the people who today serve our Church in the tradition of the Ange. A few years ago we tried to host an Alumni Call-In which met with some modest success but now we need to see about getting together, about finding the time and the place to gather. What better time to do this than for the **800th anniversary of the Order in 2016**.

If this interest you, if you would like to see this become a reality, then please email us and let us know. Our question is this **“If we build it will they come?”** We hope that your responses will help us gauge the viability of such an event and find the best time and location. Thomas wisely and rightly observed: *“Charity, by which God and neighbor are loved, is the most perfect friendship.”* (De caritate)

[Email us NOW!](#)



Conference in Cairo January 14-16, 2016

Commentary in Post-Classical Islam

IDEO is pleased to announce its forth-coming conference, on “Commentary in Post-Classical Islam” to take place in Cairo on January 14-16, 2016, funded by the European Delegation in Cairo. Topics to be examined will include the Sciences of Islam: Between Repetition and Innovation. The conference will ask “What is commenting in Islam?”

Practical information: To register, please send an email to the following address: secretariat@ideo-cairo.org. Registration is free of fees. If you wish to deliver a paper, please send your abstract (300–500 words, in English, French or Arabic) and a CV to the same address, secretariat@ideo-cairo.org. **Deadline for applications is September 30, 2015.** We will select between six and ten papers. The conference will take place at IDEO on January, 14, 15 and 16, 2016.

Concluding conference of the 200 Project: “Historical contextualization of 200 authors of the Arab and Islamic heritage” IDEO, Cairo, January 14-16, 2016



Want to know more?

Click on these three links to watch.

[Jerusalem video](#)

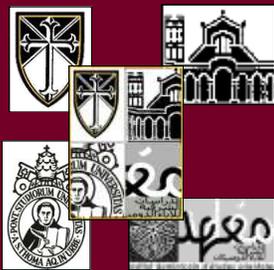
[Rome video](#)

[Cairo video](#)

Tell us your thoughts about these videos [here](#).



Supporting the Works of the Order: A Collaborative Alliance



Over the past two and a half years the Board of the International Dominican Foundation has been undergoing a time of evaluating its organization and operations. I am pleased to say that the results of this internal review have produced amazing results. We have forged a closer working relation with the projects in Jerusalem, Rome and Cairo and have sharpened the scope of our efforts. The works of the Dominican Order are indeed many and wide in scope. The four US provinces alone minister in numerous parishes and Newman centers, staff 3 graduate schools of theology and one major university. But these provinces are part of the Order's global mission and the Ecole, the Angelicum and IDEO are part of a Dominican legacy that extends beyond territories and generations. Please support your local province as well.

[St. Joseph Province](#)

[Holy Name Province](#)

[St. Albert the Great Province](#)

[St. Martin de Porres](#)

The Reception



1. **Fr Dominic Izzo** Socius to the Master of the Order, **Deacon Frank Reilly** & **Fr. Paul Watkins**, co-chairs of the Assets Management Committee. 2 **Fr John McGuire** Board VP, **Archbishop Allen Vigneron**, Archdiocese of Detroit, **Monsignor James Checchio** Rector of the Pontifical North American College in Rome. 3. **Dr. John Patrick Jordan**, Board Secretary, Fr. Watkins. 4. **Sr. Catherine Marie Hopkins** co-chair Institutional Advancement Committee, Fr. Izzo, & **Fr. Michael Demkovich** Board President searching the web for a very special picture of St. Cecilia. 5. **Mr. Jim Sherman** host of EWTN *The Journey Home*, **Monsignor Jeffrey Steenson**, Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, Fr. Demkovich. 6. Msgr Checchio, 7. Sr. Catherine Marie, **Archbishop Thomas Rodi** Archdiocese Mobile. 8. Fr. Demkovich, **Donald Cardinal Wuerl** Archbishop of Washington, DC. past chair of the Board. 9 **Bishop Joseph Pepe** Diocese of Las Vegas, new Board member, Fr Demkovich “facetiming mutual friends.” 10. **Mrs. Louise Jordan** Board of Directors, Sr Catherine Marie. 11. Archbishop Vigneron, **Bishop Edward Weisenburger**, Diocese of Salina new Board member.

