



International Dominican Foundation

JULY & AUGUST 2015

President's Message: Bringing to Light What is Hidden



Fr. Allen Moran began his role as President of IDF on July 1, 2015.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the friends and benefactors of the International Dominican Foundation as the new President of IDF. My tenure as the fourth president of IDF began July 1, 2015, and I look forward to working with each of you in promoting the works of the Dominican Order at the Angelicum, the École Biblique, and IDEO. In my own experience in teaching at the Angelicum, I can personally attest to the privilege of having a classroom composed of a near perfect cross-section of the Catholic Church in the twenty-first century. The study and learning that takes place at the Angelicum today will quietly filter back to give vision and shape to the Church around the world affecting the life of the Church for generations to come. For most people this is all hidden work. It goes largely unseen like the work of the sower of seed in the Gospel parables. There is a shared commonality between the prayer and support of the friends and benefactors of IDF and those who work in the IDF-sponsored institutions: much of our work goes unnoticed by the world. My hope is that through the *IDF Newsletter* more of this good work and its fruits will come to light that we might all give thank to God for the graces that we have received and helped to administer.

Fr. Allen

“We must sow the seed, not hoard it.” - Attributed to St. Dominic



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A Message from Fr. Michael Demkovich

Dear Friends,

As I transition from being president of the International Dominican Foundation to a new role, I am pleased that Fr. Allen will carry on the good works already being done.

I will continue to be involved as a faithful board member, and to serve in a novel role for me, as President Emeritus. This means that I will continue to do some of the work I have previously done to assist Fr. Allen and the board. I know that it is an important moment as the Foundation continues to grow in its efforts to meet the needs of the projects in Jerusalem, Rome and Cairo.

As of July 1, I have become the pastor of St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center at Kansas State University. It is a challenging new ministry but one that holds much excitement. We Dominicans are called to serve in a variety of ways. It just goes to show you that you can teach an old dog new tricks! In this new ministry I am made all the more mindful of the value that the projects of the Foundation provide. The Biblical scholarship in Jerusalem, the theological and philosophical inquiry in Rome, and the dialogue with Islam and other Christian traditions in Cairo, these have all been an amazing resource. I am pleased that this year's speaker Fr. Marcel Sigrist will be in Manhattan, Kansas both at St. Isidore's and at St. Thomas Moore Parish. (Read more in this newsletter).

I ask your continued prayers and support for the works of the International Dominican Foundation. Your financial support is critical now more than ever. While this change in President is an important transition for the organization, it is also a critical step forward. Over the last three years IDFUSA has been able to give new purpose in its restructuring and provide new clarity to its mission. I know that Fr. Allen is the right person to continue these efforts. He brings an energy and understanding of finances as well as the experience of having lived at the Angelicum to the job. He and Melanie Hoeman, our executive administrator in New Orleans, have been hard at work. There are also some exciting new events we are working on together for 2016, the 800th anniversary of the Dominican Order. May God continue to keep us all in His providential care and bless the works we do in His most Holy Name.

*Fondly,
fr Michael*



The Feast of St. Dominic: August 8th

Fr. Allen Moran, O.P.

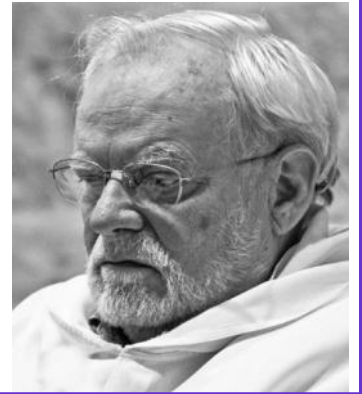
The Roman Catholic Church observes the feast day of the founder of the Order of Preachers, St. Dominic de Guzmán, on August 8. Every Dominican knows the story of St. Dominic how he travelled with his bishop through southern France and discovered a people whose unity and peace had been rent asunder by heresy and war and how his life and activity in this region through roughly a ten-year period (1206-1216) came to establish the Order of Preachers. By 1216 there was both a monastery of cloistered nuns and more than a dozen friars following his way of life, which was centered on the Word of God. In a certain sense all religious life in the Catholic Church is or should be rooted in the Word of God as consecrated life bespeaks a response to Christ, the Word of God incarnate, who calls one to follow Him in a more perfect manner by living as He did as one who was poor, chaste, and obedient. St. Dominic laid great emphasis on contact to the written Word of God to form his disciples in their life and ministry in the Church. In the records of St. Dominic's canonization process, his contemporaries recounted how he, "studied the Epistles of St. Paul assiduously, until he knew them almost entirely by heart," and how even though he was firmly committed to a life of evangelical poverty and would go so far as walking barefoot from town to town so as not to wear out his shoes, he always carried with him a copy of St. Matthew's Gospel at a time when books were so expensive. His emphasis on study in the life of his disciples was to better understand and engage the Word of God, which they meditated upon so that they might communicate it more effectively to those they later encountered and be transfigured themselves by its power. Through the centuries, the Order of Preacher's emphasis on study of the Word of God has maintained its pride of place, and even the order's greatest theologian, St. Thomas Aquinas, was known first and foremost in his day as a commentator on Sacred Scripture. In the twenty-first century, this commitment to study and reflection on the Word of God continues throughout the order's many academic apostolates especially at L'École Biblique in Jerusalem.



The International Dominican Foundation



is pleased to welcome
Fr. Marcel Sigrist, O.P.
Director of the Ecole Biblique



*Please join us for a rare opportunity to hear
 this internationally recognized authority
 on Biblical research and the Holy Land*

August 26 - September 6, 2015

Dominican Presence in the Holy Land: 1250 to Today (α)

Jesus and Joseph, the Hidden Story (β)

Oklahoma City, OK ~ August, 26

The Catholic Pastoral Center
 7501 Northwest Expressway

August 26th(α)

7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Manhattan, KS ~ August 27-29

St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center
 711 Denison Avenue

August 27th(α)

8:00 - 9:30 p.m.

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
 2900 Kimball Ave, Manhattan, KS 66502

August 29th(β)

3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

St. Leo University, FL ~ September 3-6

St. Leo's University
 33701 State Road 52, Saint Leo, FL

September 3rd(β)

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

St. Leo Benedictine Abbey chat with monks

September 4th

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Rev. Dr. **Marcel Sigrist, OP** is a Dominican Priest and Director for the École Biblique et Archéologique Française de Jérusalem (EBAF), he has studied at the University of Strasbourg, the Dominican Faculties Le Saulchoir, the Biblical School of Jerusalem, and Yale University (PhD, Assyriology). 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 – Volume III with Ran Zadok and Christopher B.F. Walker (2006).

The Ecole Biblique is a world renowned research institute founded in 1890 under the name École pratique d'études bibliques by Marie-Joseph Lagrange, a Dominican priest. In 1920, it took its current name, following its recognition, by the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, as a national archaeological school in France. The school is situated close to an ancient church to which the supposed relics of Saint Stephen were transferred in 439. Since its creation, the school has been involved in the exegesis of biblical text, and has carried out archaeological research, in a complementary manner and without secrecy, in Palestine and the adjacent territories. Its principal disciplines are epigraphy, the Semitic languages, Assyriology, Egyptology, other aspects of ancient history, geography, and ethnography. Following the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the scholars at the school have been heavily involved in the translation and interpretation of the texts.

Mahmoud Azab & “The Last Dialogue”



The IDEO reports that on the occasion of the anniversary of the death of Mahmoud Azab (June 29, 2014), they have translated into French The Last Dialogue, a series of conversations between Mahmoud Azab, Mme Hoda Issa, and fr. Georges Anawati, O.P. This book is being published by the Friends of IDEO Association and will be distributed for free to its members in September. Dying suddenly one year ago, Mahmoud Azab was the counselor on inter-faith dialogue for the sheikh of al-Azhar. Today, more than ever, we are in need men like him.

“Mahmoud Azab (r.) At the Dominican Institute for Oriental Studies (IDEO) in Cairo in May 2012, on the occasion of an evening tribute to Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald (I.), Apostolic Nuncio in Egypt.”

Photo Source: Boëdec, François. Mahmoud Asab-Regis Morelon: a Muslim-Christian friendship (part 1). Saphir News. Retrieved 8.6.2015 from http://www.saphirnews.com/Mahmoud-Azab-Regis-Morelon-une-amitie-islamo-chretienne-volet-1_a19235.html

Koch Foundation Scholars



Through the generosity of the Koch Foundation, three sisters at the Angelicum received scholarships for the academic school year. In a report, Sr. Princy Kozhikadan who belongs to the Ernakulam province of the religious congregation Sisters of the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, writes that she is “the first one who is doing Doctoral studies in Biblical theology to get deeper knowledge to teach.” She completed her academic year in May. The International Dominican Foundation is preparing to provide another year of lay and religious scholarships to the Angelicum for the upcoming 2015-2016 academic year. The Angelicum will resume classes on September 1, 2015.



Koch Foundation Scholarship recipients (l to r): Sr. Valsamma Putheparambi, Sr. Princy Kozhikadan and Sr. Antony Mary Jesumani pose for a photo with the Rector of the Angelicum, Fr. Konstantin Adam, O.P.

A Message from Melanie...

I have now been working in the office for two months and enjoying it! I would love to hear from you as a way to learn more about the International Dominican Foundation and its supporters. Please contact me anytime at admin@intldom.org or 504-836-8180.

Want to know more?

Click on these three links to watch.

[Jerusalem video](#)

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[Cairo video](#)

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