



# International Dominican Foundation

## SEPTEMBER 2015

### President's Message: Supporting the Ministry of Truth

Dear Friends and Benefactors of IDF,

In the prologue of the *Primitive Constitutions* of the Order of Preachers, we find the following quotation, "Our study should principally and zealously be directed to this, that we may be of help to the souls our neighbours." St. Dominic de Gúzman's vision for his Order of Preachers linked study to the ministry of salvation, and this link between the intellectual life and the evangelical mission of the Church continues to this day in the three institutions served by the International Dominican Foundation. Study and the teaching both flow from the motto of the Order: *Contemplare et contemplata aliis tradere* [Contemplate and hand on to others that which you have contemplated]. They are also intimately linked to the other motto of the Order: *Veritas* [Truth]. Study and teaching should cultivate a love of truth and ultimately of Him who said, *I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life* (Jn. 14:6). In your prayers and support for the works of the IDF, you too take part in this ministry of study and truth at the heart of the Church.



-Fr. Allen

cf. *The Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Brothers of the Order of Preachers* (Dublin: Dominican Publications, 2012), #77§1.

### Fr. Marcel Sigrist, O.P. Speakers Tour



Fr. Michael Demkovich introduces Fr. Marcel Sigrist at St. Isidore's in Manhattan, KS.

Fr. Marcel Sigrist is spending his summer in Oklahoma City with the Green Scholars Initiative. While in the United States, the International Dominican Foundation scheduled various talks for him to give. On August 26th, Fr. Marcel visited the Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City speaking about the *Dominican Presence in the Holy Land*. Then on August 27-29, Fr. Marcel was hosted by Fr. Michael Demkovich in Manhattan, Kansas. Fr. Marcel spoke at Fr. Mike's new parish, St. Isidore's as well as at a neighboring parish, St. Thomas More. All talks were well attended and helped to spread awareness about Fr. Marcel's work with the Ecole Biblique and the support needed for the International Dominican Foundation.

On September 3-6, Fr. Marcel will join Fr. Allen Moran in Tampa, Florida for several more talks. Please see the flyer included at the end of the newsletter for complete details. For more information about the Speakers Tour, please contact the office at 504-836-8180 or [admin@intldom.org](mailto:admin@intldom.org).

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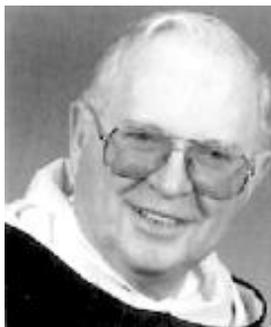
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# Tulane University Grand Opening of the Fr. Val Ambrose McInnes, O.P. Center for Catholic Life



Fr. Val McInnes was the first Dominican friar on Tulane's campus in 1966. Fr. Val served at Tulane for many years as chaplain, pastor and Chair of Judeo-Christian Studies. The International Dominican Foundation was established by Fr. Val in 2002.

On Friday August 21st, a dedication ceremony was held to celebrate the grand opening of the Fr. Val Ambrose McInnes, O.P. Center for Catholic Life at Tulane University in New Orleans. Despite rainy weather, a big crowd of Tulane students, parents, alumni and friends of the International Dominican Foundation celebrated the occasion. The dedication ceremony was held on the front steps of the new building and was hosted by the Center's Chaplain, Fr. Thomas Schaeffgen, O.P. Michael Fitts, President of Tulane University, spoke warmly about the presence of the Center for Catholic Life on Tulane's campus. Archbishop Gregory Aymond gave a blessing and assisted with the ribbon cutting.

Marilyn Calderon, niece of Fr. Val, says that the new Center for Catholic Life "would humble, yet also delight him. His legacy of work in the Catholic Church, education, the arts, interfaith dialogue, the environment, history and philosophy remains foundational to so many lives and programs." Ms. Calderon continues to say that "this center will encompass his legacy, as home to a vibrant community of ongoing faith development, as students search for God's call in their lives while studying at Tulane."

Building construction began in October 2014. The center includes office space for the chaplain and staff, a 140-seat chapel that will provide a sacred space for students and community members, classroom and conference room, Catholic library and a large kitchen and social hall on the first floor. For more information about the Fr. Val McInnes, O.P. Center for Catholic Life, please visit their website at [www.catholic.tulane.edu](http://www.catholic.tulane.edu).



Scenes from the dedication ceremony of the Fr. Val McInnes Center for Catholic Life on August 21, 2015.

- Top left: Tulane Students
- Bottom left: 2nd floor chapel
- Bottom right: Archbishop Aymond blessing the new building.



Fr. Allen Moran visits the Fr. Val Ambrose McInnes, O.P. Center for Catholic Life in July before the grand opening.



## Fr. Ragheed Ganni (1972-2007), martyr and Angelicum alumnus



The Angelicum educates men and women from all over the world from countries where the local church is in her infancy to places where the local church is nearly as old as Christianity itself from places where the Church is thriving to places where Christians face severe persecution. Most institutions of higher learning pride themselves in the worldly success of their graduates. At the Angelicum, there is a more prized measure: the heroic witness of her graduates. In 2003 Fr. Ragheed Ganni, a Chaldean Catholic priest from Mosul, Iraq, completed a licentiate in ecumenical theology from the Angelicum whereupon he returned to Iraq to serve the Church amidst escalating violence. For four years he served as secretary to Paulos Faraj Rahho, Archbishop of Mosul for the Chaldean Catholic Church, and ministered to the faithful facing growing threats against their lives. On

June 3, 2007 following the celebration of Divine Liturgy at the Holy Spirit Chaldean Church in Mosul, Fr. Ragheed and three subdeacons were approached by a group of gunmen who demanded to know why Fr. Ragheed had not heeded their warning and closed the church. He responded, “How can I close the house of God?” Upon refusing to convert to Islam, Fr. Ragheed and the three subdeacons were gunned down in cold blood becoming martyrs for the faith. Fr. Ragheed’s memory is cherished at the Angelicum, and his story is a reminder of how the great ministry of the Angelicum can and does reach the Church in need.



This image depicts Fr. Ragheed Ganni in a mosaic which is housed at the Pontifical Irish College in Rome, where Fr. Ganni lived while studying at the Angelicum.

## Americans Abroad: A Visit to IDEO

*Article written by Mr. Robert Pickering, OP who visited Egypt and the IDEO with a group from Denver, CO.*

This summer, a group of nine from St. Dominic Parish in Denver, Colorado spent a week in Egypt led by Fr. Luke Barder, O.P. We had the opportunity to climb inside a pyramid, sail the Nile at sunset, see the King Tut exhibit and sip tea flavored with fresh mint at El Fishaway. But that’s not the reason we were there.

We came to visit the Dominican Institute of Oriental Studies (IDEO) in Cairo. Friars and staff run the research library of rare Islamic books, providing a valuable service to Muslims and strengthening Christian-Muslim relations. We had a brief introduction to Islam from Muslim scholars. We asked tough questions about ISIS and then heard a moderate Muslim response. Most of all, we learned how to set aside our pre-conceptions and listen. “seek truth; dispel nonsense,” in the words of Fr. Luke. We grew to respect people of a very different faith, while profoundly strengthening our own.



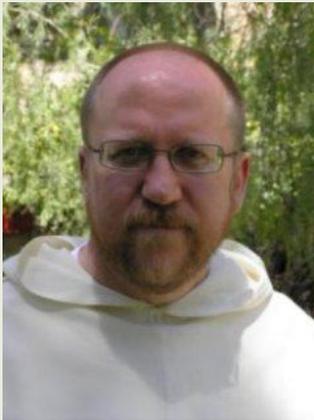
The group attends a lecture on Qur’an taught by Soraya Wittek.



Scenes from the members of St. Dominic Parish visiting Egypt and the IDEO. From L to R, 1-the group enjoys tea at El Fishaway Market, 2-the group visits the Cairo Citadel in Egypt, 3-“selfie” with Fr. Luke Barder in Coptic Cairo, 4-Beautiful sunset sail on the Nile in Cairo.

## Interview with Fr. Gregory Tatum, O.P. of L'Ecole Biblique

Conducted on August 6, 2015, by Fr. Allen Moran, O.P.



Fr. Gregory Tatum, O.P. is originally from southern California. He entered the order in 1980 in the Western Province after graduating from the University of San Diego with a bachelor degree in history and international relations. Fr. Gregory has taught at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley, California, at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., and has been teaching courses at L'Ecole Biblique since 2007. Read more from Fr. Allen's interview with Fr. Gregory about life at L'Ecole Biblique.

**Fr. Allen:** What projects are you working on?

**Fr. Gregory:** In Jerusalem, I continue to teach a variety of courses. I am on the committee for producing a revised translation of the New American Bible. I am also working on a book entitled: *From Faith to Glory: Pauline Soteriology*, which begins with St. Paul's monotheistic understanding of the divinity of the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit and shows how this informs his theology of salvation.

**Fr. Allen:** Describe a typical day at L'Ecole.

**Fr. Gregory:** We have Morning Prayer at 7:30. On weekdays, classes begin at 8:00. Mass is celebrated at Noon followed by dinner. We are often joined by the students of L'Ecole for both of these. The afternoon is reserved for personal study. We celebrate Evening Prayer at 7:30, and this is followed by a light supper for members of the Dominican community.

**Fr. Allen:** What are three interesting facts about L'Ecole that few outsiders know?

**Fr. Gregory:** The original *Jerusalem Bible* was done by Dominican Fathers of L'Ecole. The archeological excavations of Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947, were also done by the Dominican Fathers of L'Ecole. Finally, the buildings of L'Ecole sit on the site of a 5<sup>th</sup> century monastery dedicated to St. Stephen. During the Crusades, there was also a pilgrim hostel located on our current premises. The place is filled with history.

**Fr. Allen:** What are some of the current projects of L'Ecole?

**Fr. Gregory:** The most important project currently underway is The Bible in Its Traditions (BEST). It stresses that the text of the Bible has always been multi-form, and that the interpretive tradition of the text (reception history) there has always been a great deal of diversity.

**Fr. Allen:** What are some of the greatest challenges faced by L'Ecole?

**Fr. Gregory:** L'Ecole has two greatest needs at present:

- 1) The need to educate more Dominican scholars in Biblical studies, and
- 2) Finding funding to build up the library and facilitate collaborators and visiting scholars and researchers.

**Fr. Allen:** What sets L'Ecole apart from other places?

**Fr. Gregory:** There is no other institution in the world that does our type of work. It's a research center that offers classes and is dedicated to cutting edge Biblical studies and the archeology of the Holy Land. We are pushing for the canonization of Fr. LaGrange, the founder of L'Ecole. He was both a devout and obedient son of the Church and a Catholic pioneer in historical criticism.



## The IDF Monthly Newsletter

Do you have any suggestions for the monthly newsletter? We would love to get your feedback on topics you'd like to learn more about. Please share them with Melanie at the office by contacting [admin@intldom.org](mailto:admin@intldom.org) or 504-836-8180.

## Want to know more?.

Click on these three links to watch.

[Jerusalem video](#)

[Rome video](#)

[Cairo video](#)

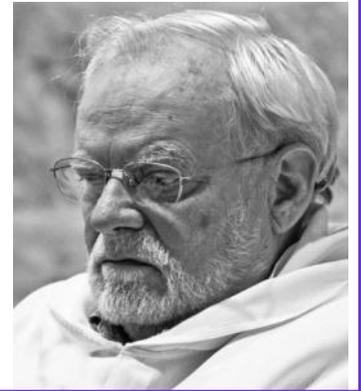
Tell us your thoughts about these videos [here](#).



# 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.