



# International Dominican Foundation

## October 2015

### President's Message: The Legacy of St. Dominic's Zeal

The founding of the Order of Preachers by St. Dominic de Guzmán began in the first decade of the thirteenth century when he, as a canon regular of the Cathedral in Osma, Castile (present-day Spain), and his bishop, Diego, passed through the Languedoc region of Southern France on a mission to secure a bride for King Alfonso VIII of Castile and were moved by the ravages that heresy and war had wrought upon the people and the Church in that region. In 1203, on the first of two journeys on behalf of the King, there is an episode often retold in the Dominican Order of St. Dominic staying awake all night persuading the innkeeper where he and Diego were staying to abandon the teaching of the Cathars and return to the fullness of



This image depicts Pope Honorius III issuing the bull *Religiosam vitam*, formally establishing St. Dominic and his brothers as a religious order under the Rule of St. Augustine, and as an order which "should be inviolably preserved forever."

- See more at: <http://www.op.org/en/content/anniversary-approval-dominican-order#sthash.Uiktdp7Z.dpuf>

Image: Leandro da Ponte - Pope Honorius III (d.1227) approving the Order of Saint Dominic in 1216

the Catholic faith through thoughtful theological arguments regarding the truths of the faith and a deep concern for the salvation of souls. Two related elements that would characterize the order that St. Dominic would eventually found were present in this memorable event: study and preaching for the salvation of souls. For most of the period from 1206 -1216, St. Dominic devoted himself to preaching among the Cathars, sometimes also called the Albigensians, in the region of France around Toulouse and more elements of the life of the order took shape. A small number of other men would join him during this time, and the first monastery of nuns under his direction would also be founded during this decade. Part of the success of the Cathars was attributable to their simplicity and commitment to poverty, which seemed to reflect the poverty and simplicity of Jesus Christ. St. Dominic understood

this witness, and incorporated apostolic poverty as part of his vision for a new form of religious life. St. Dominic took inspiration from his own religious heritage as a Canon Regular who followed the Rule of St. Augustine, the fraternal and apostolic life described in the Acts of the Apostles, the commitment to study of sacred doctrine, and itinerant preaching for the salvation of souls. This latter element, preaching of doctrine and Christian morals, had always been the charge of the bishop. Bishop Foulques of Toulouse, St. Dominic's local bishop, approved of St. Dominic's vision and sought to incorporate these new preachers and sought to promote this new form of religious life as a permanent instrument of evangelization.

In the year 1215, the Fourth Lateran Council was held in Rome, arguably the most influential council of the Church held in the Middle Ages, and St. Dominic accompanied Bishop Foulques to the council. Both men hoped that the Fourth Lateran Council would confirm this new form of religious life for the universal Church and grant them the right both to call themselves and to be an order of preachers. Certain legislation from that council seems to reflect the end of the order envisioned by St. Dominic. The tenth canon of the Council, for instance, commands bishops to establish in their dioceses exemplary preachers who will faithfully preach the fullness of the faith for the benefit of the faithful. The Council, however, also sought to put an end to the disorderly proliferation of new forms of rules of life for religious communities, and in the thirteenth canon forbade any new religious rule from being approved. (*contd. On page 2*)

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(contd. from page 1, *President's Message*)

Pope Innocent III, then reigning, was favorable to the plans of St. Dominic, and he ordered the local bishop to give St. Dominic and his followers a church in his diocese as a sign that they were incorporated into the local diocese. St. Dominic and followers were told to choose an existing rule already established in the Church., and then St. Dominic was to return to Rome. Innocent III promised that he would approve St. Dominic's vision of apostolic poverty, and both the right and the work of preaching.

Back in Toulouse, the brothers with St. Dominic decided to follow the Rule of St. Augustine and to combine the life of a Canon with that of an evangelical preacher. The brethren would be governed by elected superiors, and the highest authority in this new order would be an elected assembly, a "general chapter", which would determine legislation for the order as a whole. The prayer life, life of penance, and patterns of communal life were borrowed from the Premonstratensians. With these details spelled out, St. Dominic returned on foot to Rome in late 1216. On December 22, 1216, Pope Honorius III [Pope Innocent III had died in the interim] confirmed the promises made by Innocent III with the title "Order of Preachers" for his followers.

After eight hundred years, the Dominican Order is the world's oldest functioning representative democracy, but more importantly its apostolic way of life and its missionary commitment to the intellectual life for the purpose of preaching and the salvation of souls has been at the service of the universal Church.

-Fr. Allen

## Dominican Jubilee Events

The Dominican family is preparing to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the confirmation of the Order of Preachers. The celebration of the Jubilee year will begin officially on November 7, 2015—January 21, 2017. Here is a list of notable events that are taking place in the US provinces and worldwide to mark the Jubilee. For complete details on the 800th Jubilee events and pilgrimages, please visit the official website of the order at <http://www.op.org/en/jubilee>.



### 2015-2016 Jubilee Events and Masses being held in the US Provinces:

**Oct. 31: San Francisco, CA**, 10AM Inaugural Mass at St. Dominic's Church. Fr. Bruno Cadoré, O.P., Master General of the Order of Preachers, will join to celebrate, reception to follow.

**Nov. 1—30: Columbus, OH**, "*Settlers of Ohio: A History of Service to the Soul of the People*" is an exhibit focused on Rev. Edward Dominic Fenwick, OP, the first priest and bishop to settle in Ohio in 1808. The exhibit will be held at the Ohio Statehouse.

**Nov. 14: Columbus, OH**, 5PM mass at St. Patrick Church to open the Jubilee. The Apostolic Nuncio-Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, Archbishop Bernardito C. Auza, will be the principal celebrant and homilist.

**Nov. 4—6: College Park, MD**, Lay Dominican Congress Celebrating the Opening of the Order's 800th Jubilee Year

**Nov. 7: New Orleans, LA**, 1PM Opening Mass of the Jubilee at St. Dominic Church, reception to follow.

**Jan. 7: Washington, DC**, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia will speak at the Dominican House of Studies on Thursday, January 7, 2016—the Memorial of St. Raymond of Peñafort—for an evening event on Saint Thomas Aquinas and Law.

### 2015-2016 Jubilee Events and Initiatives held worldwide

**Nov. 7, 2015—Jan. 21, 2016: Pilgrimage of the Holy Rosary with the Dominican Monasteries**—On the opening day of the Jubilee, the Master of the Order will bless a number of "pilgrim rosaries" that will be sent to each Dominican monastery in the world. These rosaries are a symbol of communion for the entire Dominican family in prayer. A pre-determined schedule of the Jubilee will give two days at each monastery to invite the local Dominican Family to pray the Holy Rosary. This effort will form a continuous chain of prayer throughout the Jubilee Year. During the 48 hours at each monastery it will be the center of the Dominican world of the Rosary.

**Nov. 7:** In the Basilica of Santa Sabina, the Master of the Order will preside a solemn opening celebration of the Jubilee. A live recording of the event will be streamed through the order's website.

The details of many of the Jubilee events will continue to be announced in the coming weeks and months.

See more at: <http://www.op.org/en/jubilee>

# 800th Jubilee Pilgrimage: In the Footsteps of St. Dominic with the International Dominican Foundation



In the Footsteps of St. Dominic | Pilgrimage Itinerary | June 5-17

## SPAIN, FRANCE & ITALY: June 5 — 17, 2016

Celebrate the 800th Jubilee of the Order of Preachers on pilgrimage with the International Dominican Foundation. Travel with friends and friars as you enrich your faith and retrace the earliest days of St. Dominic.

- Madrid • Calurega • Burgo de Osma • Toulouse • Albi • Fanjeaux • Prouille • Carcassone •
- Bologna • Florence • Siena • Rome •

[CLICK HERE for Itinerary and complete details!](#)

### Pilgrimage includes:

Daily mass, roundtrip airfare, 4-star hotels, luxury motor coach, professional guides, breakfast and dinner and unforgettable experiences! **Fr. Michael Demkovich** plans to join the pilgrimage and provide spiritual direction to the IDF group. While in Rome, the group will visit the **Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum)**, one of the projects of the International Dominican Foundation.

### Per Person Rates by Occupancy:

SPAIN, FRANCE & ITALY

Double: \$5,165\*

Single: \$6,145\*

*\*Price subject to change pending departure location*

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*\*Tour dates and prices are subject to change.*



Florence



Rome



Carcassonne



Burgo de Osma

## Interview with Fr. Jean Jacques Pérennès, O.P. Former Director of the IDEO begins as Director of the Ecole Biblique



Fr. Pérennès is the newly appointed Director of the Ecole Biblique.

Fr. Jean Jacques Pérennès was born in northern France in 1949. With a master's degree in theology and a doctorate in economics, Fr. Jean Jacques has an impressive background studying, teaching and holding various leadership positions all over the world. He spent a combined eighteen years teaching economics at the University of Algiers and then as a lecturer at the Institute of Political Studies and the Catholic University of Lyon. In 1985, Fr. Jean Jacques went to Rome to work as an assistant to the Master of the Dominican Order giving the opportunity to travel to various impoverished countries. In 2000, Fr. Jean Jacques began his time in Cairo holding positions as prior of the Dominican community, secretary general and Director of the Dominican Institute for Oriental Studies (IDEO). He served as Vicar Provincial of the Dominicans in the Arab World from 2002-2010. After having spent nine years in Egypt working at IDEO, Fr. Jean Jacques Pérennès begins his new assignment as Director of the Ecole Biblique on October 1st. Read the interview below with Fr. Jean Jacques Pérennès.

### How long were you at the IDEO?

I have spent 15 years in Egypt, 9 years as Secretary General of IDEO and 5 years as Director. They were demanding years but very happy and rewarding as well.

### What do you consider your greatest accomplishments during your time as Director of the IDEO?

I think that the greatest achievement has been to be able to build a team of young, gifted and enthusiastic friars able to work together and to take over the challenge of putting forward this great project of creating a mutual understanding between Muslim and Christian scholars. We have achieved other things : building a new library wing, creating a sophisticated software program (al kindi), renovating our buildings, but I do think that the human dimension of a team is, definitely, the greatest achievement of this period. And we made it together.

### How do you feel about living in Jerusalem?

Jerusalem is a painful place to live, because of the permanent tensions between religions. My hope is to be able to connect here as well with people and institutions willing to build bridges, in a country which is building physical and political walls.

### When will you start working at the Ecole?

I start working as director at the Ecole at the beginning of the academic year on October 1st, but I have been already working a lot in the past months to prepare a new start for this old and prestigious institution. With help of the Master of the Order and several provincials, we are blessed with the arrival this year of 4 new professors and a new administrator for the Ecole. New blood was urgently needed. They are coming. It is a blessing.

### Why are these two institutions (both the IDEO and the Ecole) so important to the Dominican family? How can we spread the word to others?

Cairo's priory was built by the friars of Jerusalem in the 1930s to help the students of the Ecole to study archeology. Finally, Cairo community was given another mission, but in both places, the commitment is the same : witnessing the love of God for everyone by our religious life and building friendship through study and culture. It is , indeed, a very Dominican mission : community life, study and witnessing by our life the love of God for everyone.

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