



International Dominican Foundation

November 2015

President's Message: R.I.P.: Requiescant In Pace [*May they rest in peace*]

I can still vividly remember going to the cemetery to bury my grandfather. I was twelve years old, and his death was the first in my family of which I had any memory. The headstones engraved with familiar local last names filled the sloping plot of land, and in some ways it was a testament to faith, hope, and charity. In terms of faith, the headstones reminded everyone who visited this Catholic cemetery that in Christ the dead are not forgotten nor cut off entirely from those who remember them. In terms of hope, the cemetery was a testament to the Church's hope in the second coming of Christ, the full manifestation of the Kingdom of God, and in the eternal life he promises to those who are united to his body through the indwelling of his grace. It was a testament to the Christian hope of so many who had gone before. In terms of charity, graves and the names reminded the visitors of the Christian bonds of love that connect the living with those who have passed on and continue to live in the love of Christ. The hope of the dead, their hope of sharing fully in the Kingdom of God, was also a reminder of the ancient Christian practice of aiding those who have preceded us in death with the help of our prayers. If they stand in any need of purification,

we ask the LORD to receive our prayers for them, the holy sacrifice of the mass offered for their intentions, as well as any penances that we might do on their behalf.

In the Dominican Order there is a long-standing devotion on behalf of the deceased, which includes daily praying the *De Profundis*, i.e. Psalm 130 (129), for the souls of the deceased of the Order, praying the rosary, and offering regularly scheduled masses for deceased family members, friends, and benefactors of the Order. At the International Dominican Foundation we are mindful of the many benefactors who have gone before us as well as their family members. **All supporters of IDF are invited to send the names of their deceased loved ones to the IDF office, and I will remember them during a special mass in the month of November.**

-Fr. Allen Moran, O.P.



The Forerunners of Christ with Saints and Martyrs, probably by Fra Angelico, 1423-4. The National Gallery, London.. This painting is part of the group: Fiesole San Domenico Altarpiece.

R.I.P.: Requiescant In Pace [*May they rest in peace*]

Remembering in prayer the following members of the faculty at the Angelicum University who have passed away.

Prof. Emeritus Fr. Albert Patfoort, O.P.

Prof. Fr. Anslem Hertz, O.P.

Prof. Fr. Felice Lagutaine, O.P.

Prof. Fr. Benoît Duroux, O.P.



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The Angelicum Helps Converts to Evangelize

Hello my name is Augustinus from Turkey. I am 29 years old. Though my family is Muslim, I have put my faith in Jesus Christ and was baptized in the Catholic Church. I really enjoy reading the Bible and the Church Fathers. I share what I have learned in the Faculty of Theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Rome) through the largest Christian web group and forum there is in the Turkish language (<http://www.turkishchristians.net>). I answer peoples' questions and write articles. With God's grace, some people who have read my articles began to put their faith in Christ and started catechumenal programs in the Catholic Church. As a thank-you-gift for my evangelizing and catechetical Internet work, our parish priest gave me a special invitation, which he got from our bishop, to meet personally with Pope Francis when he visited Turkey in 2014. Meanwhile, my wife Helena, moved by the Christian testimony she experienced around her, also accepted the Catholic faith.

My wife Helena earned a bachelor's degree in English Language Teaching and I have a bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems. I used to manage customers relations at our family factory, but I was unhappy from the very start because I never liked the business life and it made me feel empty inside. I talked it over with my wife and she told me that teaching people about Jesus and the Catholic faith was my true vocation and that I should think about doing it professionally. I was really thrilled about the idea and so told my parents. I believe it was all in God's plan that our family business was hit hard by the 2008 economic crisis. My parents gave me their blessing to pursue my vocation since they thought the family business would no longer be good for me and as they also witnessed our Christian testimony and believed we should follow God's call and help people to find the Lord.

We contacted several Pontifical Universities in Rome. Only the Angelicum got our attention because they had the First Cycle (bachelor's program) in English, had many international students, and it was a Dominican university, which meant for us that the university was deeply rooted in the traditional teachings of the Catholic Church. The Vice Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Sr. Caterina Droste, O.P., was really kind and helpful to us. She personally helped us with all our decision making process.

Finally, we were able to personally visit the Angelicum and make sure that this was where the Lord was calling us to be in our giving our lives completely to the Lord. They let us sit in some classes as guests and we were really excited by the atmosphere of the place. There were professors and students from all over the world consisting of clergy, religious and lay people. Everybody was committed to the shining truth of the Lord and the Catholic Church. We were so thrilled! Helena enrolled in the philosophy program, which had been her dream for some time.

We are planning to go, God willing and with hard work, all the way to the doctorate level. Our dream is to become professors at the Angelicum! It was the writings of the Dominican Doctors of the Church like St. Albert the Great, St. Catherine of Siena, and St. Thomas Aquinas, who drew us closer to Jesus and the Catholic Church, and we want to help future generations and the people of our needful world find the Truth of our Lord.

Meanwhile, we are using the precious education we are getting at the Angelicum to help the Church in Turkey and all over the world by answering people's questions and publishing quality material in Turkish and in English. Turkey is filled with wrong and distorted information about Christianity in general and the Catholic Church in particular, so we would like to make the power of Truth available to everyone who desires to learn it and live it!

May God bless the donors who help the Angelicum help its students (and future professors!). I have seen many Angelicum students who are desperate for financial aid and I am sure they will return the favor by helping the Church proclaim the Truth handed down to them by the Dominican friars and sisters and others. The Angelicum is the best option for students from all over the world among the pontifical universities in Rome because it gives individuals not a feeling of loneliness but of family. The Truth proclaimed, taught and witnessed at the Angelicum, enriched by the many different cultures that are supported and encouraged at the university, I believe, is the remedy to the ills of our contemporary world. Helping the Angelicum is one of the best ways to help the Church in its new evangelization of the world!

In Christ,
Augustinus & Helena



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Interview with Sr. Luma Khudher, O.P. , teaching at the École Biblique

Sr. Luma Khudher, O.P. is a member of the Catherine of Siena Dominican Sisters in Iraq. She received her Ph.D. in Scripture from Notre Dame University in 2012. Since 2014, she has taught courses on Old Testament prophetic literature at the École Biblique. Fr. Kevin Stephens, O.P. interviewed Sr. Luma Khudher, see below.



What brought you to the Dominicans?

I had Dominican sisters in my family — I have cousins that are Dominicans — then I had Dominican sisters from pre-school through high school. In high school, two of them taught physics and religion classes, and they were very kind, they welcomed us in the convent after school, so we were with them after-

wards, praying with them in the summer. I looked at the Franciscans because there were Franciscans, but I just wanted to stay with the Dominicans. This was all in Karukosh. It was a Christian town; the government had allowed us to have religion classes all year long for all grades, so that's why I had religion classes in public school. I entered when I was nineteen, in my first year of college, so I did my bachelors in science at the University of Mosul. I finished that while I was in the convent, and then I was sent back to my hometown to teach, so I taught for two years. The first year I taught in an all-girls high school, and the second year I taught in a boys school, and then I was sent to the U.S. to learn the language. I was to go work with the sisters — there was no intention of studying in the beginning — the Springfield Dominicans, to learn the language, culture. It was like a cultural exchange, getting to know other Dominicans.

So this would have been about 2002?

Exactly, and then I was supposed to stay only three years, but then the war broke out, and I could not go home. So I worked at St. Mary's Catholic high school with the sisters in Chicago Heights, learned English, and then started a master's degree in scripture at Catholic Theological Union.

When did the idea of going on for a Ph.D. arise?

When I finished my master's, I was encouraged by CTU people a lot, so I was like, well, I'll try it, and if I get a full-ride I'll do it and if I don't get a full ride, I won't do it. I applied to four places and I got into three. Notre Dame was one of them, so I went to Notre Dame in 2007.

What did you think of Notre Dame?

I loved it. I didn't like football; I only went to one game and they lost, so that made me feel guilty. The faculty there was great.

And you ended up writing on Micah?

Yes, salvation oracles in the eighth century. Micah was an example for dating the salvation oracles to the eighth century. Most salvation oracles are dated post-exilic, so I kind of defended the idea that they can be early.

How often did you go back to Iraq? I used to go every three years, so it was interesting, because every time I would go to Iraq after three years, I would see that the country had taken ten steps back. I never went and felt like we had been advancing, that the war had done something good. Never. It always felt like we were going to the past, so I knew we were in trouble. I went back in the summer of 2012, and in the fall semester I started teaching in Iraq, in St. Ephraim's Seminary, the Syriac seminary in my hometown, Karakosh, and the following year I taught at Babel College, a Chaldean and Syriac seminary in Ankawa. I taught there for one year, and then I was invited to the École Biblique.

You were invited here in 2014? It was the Master's idea.

In the fall semester? That's what I decided. I still want to help in Iraq.

And between the time you were invited and the time you arrived, the world fell apart.

We were forced to flee at midnight on the Feast of the Transfiguration, August 6th, because of the pending arrival of ISIS. I was given the keys and was told to drive. We drove ten hours. It is normally an hour's drive, but there were so many people. We didn't take anything, thinking that we would be back, so when I came here to the École last year, I didn't have a Bible, I didn't have a pen, I didn't have paper, I had nothing. We ran away at the beginning of August, and I arrived here around September 18 or 19.

And when you were done here, you went back to Iraq?

Yes. I teach there, but really, we are working with people, so it's not like here, you sit and have all the time to do your research, your studies — it's not like that there. You are preparing for your classes, but you don't have time for doing any other thing because there are other things you are supposed to do. I am not every day in the refugee camps; there was a lot of paperwork that I had to do for the community, because I know English, basically. We had a lot of donors from the U.S., so it was writing letters, thank-you letters, telling them how they can offer their help and things like that. But I did have a couple of days in the week that I would go to one of the refugee camps. And also I teach the sisters in formation, I give classes there, to the sisters in the novitiate and the sisters in temporary vows.

Want to know more?

Click on these three links to watch.

[Jerusalem video](#)

[Rome video](#)

[Cairo video](#)

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

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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:

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Single: \$6,145*

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