

# St. Cecilia Chapter Dominican Laity

*"May our lives always witness to others the gifts of our common life as Lay Dominicans"*

## Laudare

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*Ordinary Time—November 2011*



*Pictured above are some of the Chapter's Inquirers*

**Pamela Carver, Susan McBride, Cornelia Laux, Darla Pace, Marilyn Barnes, Lynn Davis, Patricia Novak, Carlos Guerra, Viola Guerra, Tim Barnes, Vickie Barnes, Cecilia Smith, Karen Danish, Joan Peck, Sonja Corbitt, Laurale Curtsinger, Mary Wilhelm**



*"Lay believers are in the front line of Church life; for them the Church is the animating principle of human society. Therefore, they in particular ought to have an ever-clearer consciousness not only of belonging to the Church, that is to say, the community of the faithful on earth under the leadership of the Pope, the common Head, and of the bishops in communion with him. They are the Church." —CCC 889*

**NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13,**

**1:30 PM -Inquirers meet with Marilyn Cox and Mike Lucas**

**2:30 PM -Brief Business Meeting**

**3:00 PM -Large Group Study Session :**

***"The New Translations of the Mass."***

***The Liturgy of the Eucharist—Part II***

***The Concluding Rites***





**Left: Four times each year, members of the Chapter's Executive Council meet to discuss business related to the overall operation of the Chapter. Members of the Council are elected every three years by the membership. Seated (left to right) are: George Bercaw (Secretary and Laudare Editor), Sr. Vincent Marie (Religious Assistant), Rick Prickett (Treasurer), Mary Anne Goodrum (Vice-President), and Michael Watson (President). Not pictured: Marilyn Cox (Formation Director) who was visiting her daughter and grandchildren in Canada.**



Pictured above and below are those in attendance at the second installment of the Chapter's study of the *New Translations of the Mass*. Here, they are seen watching a video about the changes. They later broke up into small discussion groups.



*Feast of All Saints—November*



## ***Dominican Saints for November***

- 3 Blessed Simon Ballachi,*
- 5 Blessed Martin de Porres, C.O.P.*
- 6 Blessed Jerome, Valentine, Francis, Hyacinth & Companions (Martyrs of Tonkin)*
- 7 Blessed Peter Cambiano of Ruffia,*
- 10 Anniversary of the deceased Brothers and Sisters of the order*
- 12 Feast of All Saints of the Dominican Order*
- 13 Patronage of Saint Thomas Aquinas over Catholic Schools*
- 14 Blessed John Licci,*
- 15 Saint Albert the Great,*
- 16 Blessed Lucy of Narni*
- 25 Saint Catherine of Alexandria, V. M., Protectress of the Order*
- 26 Blessed James Benefatti*

*Pictured below, is Pamela Carver —one of the many who have recently become involved with the Inquirers Group. Several others are pictured on the next page. At our November Meeting, we will begin to take individual pictures of everyone pursuing the Dominican Charism at the St. Cecilia Chapter of Dominican Laity.*



***Pictured to the left is Mr. Mike Lucas, O.P. Mike is a 2nd year Temporarily Professed member of the Chapter, and serves as Assistant to the Formation Director.***



*A Small Pictorial Sampling of the Inquirers Seeking to Learn More About  
the Dominican Charism — Which Now Numbers Seventeen*



*Jeff Brigance*



*Christine Pinetta*



*Susan Brigance*



*Cissy Rampino*



*Susan McBride*



*Joan Peck*

## *The Lay Dominican as Lector*

By Mr. George Bercau, O.P.

One of the ways in which the *Lay Dominican* can serve the Church is as a Lector. I chose to become a Lector since it seemed a rather “*natural*” thing for me to do: when I was fifteen years old, I was “preaching” on street corners in New Jersey and Times Square, New York....eventually entered the ministry.....and have been proclaiming the Word of God ever since! I was recently asked to offer some recommendations to those which serve as Lectors in my home parish. I am now passing my recommendations on to our Chapter Members.

1. The use of the *Lector's Guide* is a very good resource; however, it is not a substitute for reading scripture on a daily basis. Having an intimate relationship with the scripture opens up to us the “emotive” undertones and “meanings” contained within the passages. I sometimes get the impression that Sunday may be the only time that some Lectors actually read the scripture: *it shows!* For far too many parishioners sitting in the pews, weekly worship is the only time they have an exposure to the scripture.
2. The ancient Greek Olympiads “practiced” their particular sports event...the word used for “practice” was the words “ascetes”—from which we get the term “ascetical.” The mystics of the Early Church were “ascetic” in the sense they “practiced” those things that kept them in the Presence of God. A good way to prepare for each Lectoring assignment is to immerse oneself in the scripture to be proclaimed.... The use of *Lectio Divina* (a way of “praying the scripture”) is an excellent way to develop a kind of “mindfulness” about the scripture which will be reflected in how you actually read (proclaim!) the weekly readings. When I lector, I try to enter into the meaning of the reading: who is the author, who is the audience, what is being said to those who are listening, and I try to express that in the manner in which I become the voice through which the Holy Spirit speaks.
3. Part of that “mindfulness” is the recognition that the majority of those sitting in the pews seldom, if ever, read or even own a Bible. The 2004 *CARA Study* revealed that less than 25% of Catholics own a Bible or read scripture; I want to reach out to that audience and present the Word of God in as forceful a manner as possible.... Their very salvation may very well be at stake!
4. When I approach the altar, I do so in a slow, deliberate manner. I reverence the altar with a profound bow (again, slowly) and offer an ejaculatory prayer as I sign my lips with the Sign of the Cross and silently say to myself: “*Lord, open my lips*” or “*To the Glory of God!*”.... I do this mindful that I about to lend my voice to the Holy Spirit.
5. At the ambo, I stand erect and scan the pews to get the people’s attention, then announce the passage I am about to proclaim. Remember: the proclamation of God’s Word, is the First Part of a two-part drama: the *Liturgy of the Word* and the *Liturgy of the Eucharist*.
6. Pause momentarily after the reading.... Let it sink in! Then, slowly return to the foot of the altar, reverence the altar in a truly reverential way, and slowly return to the pew where you are sitting.
7. There are no prizes for “*speed readers*”— someone out there in the pews desperately needs to hear what God wants to say to them... You have to say it in such a way that they are made to listen. Lectoring is the lay person's priestly function in the Mass. It can be one way in which the *Lay Dominican* is able to pursue the *Dominican Charism of Preaching*.



## Inspirational Quotes by the Church Fathers on Sacred Scripture

(from an internet site – compiled by Paul Thigpen, Convert, Former Protestant Minister)

But for the searching and right understanding of the Scriptures there is need of a good life and a pure soul, and for Christian virtue to guide the mind to grasp, so far as human nature can, the truth concerning God the Word. --St. Athanasius of Alexandria

If you would heed the Word of life, cut yourself off from evil things. The hearing of the Word profits nothing to the one who is busy with sins. -St. Ephraem the Syrian

The study of the inspired Scriptures is the chief way of finding our duty. -St. Basil the Great

Every word and deed should be ratified by the testimony of the Holy Scripture, to confirm those who do good and to shame those who do evil. -St. Basil the Great

Just as at sea, those who are carried away from the direction of the harbor bring themselves back on course by a clear sign, so Scriptures may guide those adrift on the sea of life back into the harbor of the divine will. - St. Gregory of Nyssa

There is a mirror, a spiritual one that not only shows us our own deformity, but transforms it too-if we are willing-into surpassing beauty. This mirror is the memory of good men, and the history of their blessed lives; the reading of the Scriptures; the laws given by God. -St. John Chrysostom

Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ. -- Let sleep find you holding your Bible, and when your head nods, let it be resting on a sacred page. --Love the knowledge of the Scripture, and you will not love the errors of the flesh. --St. Jerome

Let Your Scriptures be my chaste delight. Don't let me be deceived by them or deceive others using them. - St. Augustine of Hippo,

Study your heart in the light of the Holy Scriptures, and you will know therein who you were, who you are, and who you ought to be. -St. Fulgence of Ruspe

Holy Scriptures by the manner of its language transcends every science, because in one and the same sentence, while it describes a fact, it reveals a mystery.- Pope St. Gregory the Great,

The Scripture is a stream in which the elephant may swim and the lamb may wade. -Pope St. Gregory the Great

Store up in your minds the Lord's words that you receive through your ears, for the Word of the Lord is the nourishment of the mind. When His Word is heard but not stored away in the memory, it is like food that has been eaten and then rejected by an upset stomach. A man's life is despaired of if he cannot retain his food; in the same way, if you receive the food of holy exhortations, but fail to store in your memory those words of life that nurture righteousness, you have good reason to fear the danger of everlasting death. - Pope St. Gregory the Great

The Emperor of heaven, the Lord of men and of angels, has sent you His epistles for your life's advantage- and yet you neglect to read them eagerly. Study them, I beg you, and meditate daily on the words of your Creator. Learn the heart of God in the words of God, that you may sigh more eagerly for things eternal, that your soul may be kindled with greater longings for heavenly joys. -Pope St. Gregory the Great



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*Reminder!!!*

*The Inquirers will meet with Mike Lucas at 1:00 PM on the main floor of the Motherhouse prior to the large group gathering at 1:30. There will be a brief Chapter Meeting from 1:30 to 2:00; after which, the Study of the Mass will be held from 2:00 to 4:15. Vespers is at 4:45 PM in the Main Chapel. All are encouraged to participate.*

**ERRATA**

In our last newsletter, I wrote about the Retreat at Casa Maria Monastery. Sister Louise Marie asked if I would make two little modifications:

Where it reads: "Casa Maria Monastery which is home to the Franciscan Sister Servants of the Eternal Word who have St Dominic as a loved patron" -it would be more accurate to read:

"Casa Maria Monastery which is home to the newly founded community of the Sister Servants of the Eternal Word who have St Dominic and St Francis as their beloved patrons"

Also...

I mistakenly referred to Sister Louise Marie as the Prioress, when in fact, she is the Director of Retreats.

-Editor

**Prayer Before Study**

*By Saint Thomas Aquinas*

**Ineffable Creator...**

***You are proclaimed the true font of light and wisdom and primal origin raised high beyond all things.***

***Pour forth a ray of Your brightness into the darkened places of my mind; disperse from my soul the twofold darkness of sin and ignorance.***

***You make eloquent the tongues of infants. Refine my speech and pour forth upon my lips the goodness of Your blessing.***

***Grant to me keenness of mind, capacity to remember, skill in learning, subtlety to interpret, and eloquence of speech.***

***May You guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to completion.***

***You who are true God and true Man, Who live and reign, world without end.***

***-Amen***



**A Favorite Psalm Prayer**

***"Lord, you have renewed the face of the earth. Your Church throughout the world sings you a new song, announcing your wonders to all. Through a virgin, you have brought forth a new birth in our world; through your miracles, a new power; through your suffering, a new patience; in your resurrection, a new hope, and in your ascension, new majesty."***

***-Liturgy of the Hours, Vol. IV, , Week III, Morning Prayer, Monday, p.969***