

Laudare

St. Cecilia Chapter of the Dominican Laity

Ordinary Time

September 2011

“May our lips praise you Our lives proclaim Your goodness Our work give You honor Our voices celebrate You for ever”

“Welcome to Another Year!”

IN THIS ISSUE

Birmingham Dominican Laity Retreat pp.2-4

“Three-In-One” by Mr. Mike Lucas, O.P. p.3

Monthly Book Review:

*“The Beauty of the Eucharist”
By Mr. George Bercaw, O.P. pp. 5-7*

List of Dominican Saints for September p.4

*Provincial Prayer of the
Dominican Laity p.7*

Meeting Notes, Reminders, Etc. p.8



***“Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Spiritual Life:
Illustrated by the Lives of the Dominican Saints”***

Father John Horgan, S.T.L., pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, in Vancouver, Canada, presented a Retreat for the newly formed Dominican Laity Chapter in Birmingham, Alabama. The Retreat was held at the Casa Maria Monastery which is home to the Franciscan Sister Servants of the Eternal Word who have St. Dominic as a loved patron. The Retreat was attended by twenty-four individuals from Birmingham and twenty from the St. Cecilia Chapter of the Dominican Laity. Father Horgan brought with him a collection of Relics from numerous Dominican Saints—including St. Dominic and St. Catherine of Siena. Those attending were also enrolled in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The day began each morning with the Sister Servants singing Morning Prayer, followed by the celebration of Mass. There were ample opportunities for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and individual Veneration of the Sacred Relics which were displayed by Fr. Horgan. Six Sisters from the St. Cecilia Congregation in Nashville also attended.

20 Attend Dominican Laity Retreat in Birmingham



Fr. John G. Horgan—Retreat Master



“We Adore the God Who is Hidden”

Gallery of Pictures from the Birmingham Retreat



Main Chapel



Where EAST and WEST Meet

at Casa Maria..... Sister Louise Marie, Prioress, is from West of the Hudson River..... George, the *Laudare* editor, is from East of the Hudson River... That is, New York and New Jersey, respectively. Their accents gave them away!



A Few of the Dominican Relics



Altar of Repose



Crucifix Detail



Sr. Mary Rita and Sr. Margaret Andrew Sr. Mary Rita is teaching at a Catholic School in Birmingham; Sr. Margaret Andrew teaches at Aquinas College in Nashville and is working on her Doctoral Dissertation on how teachers can best present the Catholic Vision in teaching High School Literature. Sr. Mary Rita is the Religious Assistant for the Birmingham Laity Group.

Just a few of the Sister Servants.... The others were preparing lunch.... While the Dominicans were busy with contemplation...they were busy cooking. The meals they prepared were nothing short of DELICIOUS!.... Pictured below are two of their Postulants and one of the Novices.





One of the many highlights of the meeting..... The Birmingham group make their first promises as Candidates and are “Welcomed into the Family” Since they do not have any members as of yet who have made their Final Profession, they are being allowed to form a Laity Chapter under special provisions In this picture, the Candidates are being received by the Provincial President, Col. Jo Ann Cotterman, O.P. — Fr. Horgan blessed their Dominican Pins.



After much discussion, and with the assistance of the Provincial President, Father Horgan, and Sister Mary Rita, their Religious Assistant, the group discussed their formation.

*“Three In One”**Mr. John “Mike” Lucas, O.P.**Assistant Formation Director*

Don't be misled by this title; I am defining the marriage relationship between God and the couple. When two are married, they pledge their love to each other in the sight of God, and usually other witnesses to celebrate their lives as one. Oddly enough, their lives will only be as one if that third Person is God.

God will be there through the wonder years of youth and children, when mistakes are resolved with a few kind words, and candy or a movie. He is also there in later years, when the years really define their love, after the passion has settled into a routine.

How do I love thee, let me count the ways. Can we cope with our own shortcomings (and those of others)? Are we still walking with God? Does the expression “three in one” still ring out as before?

Our love has to weather the storms of life. Where is God in our daily lives; when the dark hair turns to gray and muscle definition gives way to gravity? Three in one, not only defines our marriage, but should define our Faith in God. Our lives are better now than in the years of youth; we actually love deeper and with a commitment no storm will ever erode. God is the Author of Life and of Marriage as well...Adam and Eve, again, realized His greatness after their fall; they never gave up on their lives together. Throughout this age, God has guided our lives together as one, and nudged us from time to time to remember the vows we took in His sight. I can see Him more clearly now though our sight has begun to fade. “His Mercy and Love endures forever.”



“There is a certain love deeply seated in our nature that imperceptibly knits together these bodies of ours. Nothing so welds our life together as the love of man and wife.”

-St. John Chrysostom

Dominican Saints and Blessed

By Feast Day in September

- 3 Blessed Guala, B.C.O.P.**
- 4 Blessed Catherine of Racconigi, V.O.P**
- 5 Anniversary of Deceased Friends, Benefactors of the Order**
- 6 Blessed Bertrand of Garrique, C.O.P.**
- 8 Nativity of Our Lady**
- 10 Blessed Alphonsus Navarette & Companions, MM.O.P**
- 12 Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary**
- 14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross**
- 15 Feasts of the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady & St Dominic: in honor of the miraculous picture of Suriano**
- 17 Feast of the Stigmata of Saint Francis**
- 18 Blessed John of Massias, C.O.P.**
- 20 Blessed Francis Posadas, C.O.P.**
- 23 Blessed Mark of Modena, C.O.P.**
- 24 Feast of Our Lady of Ransom**
- 25 Commemoration of Our Patriarch in Soriano**
- 26 Blessed Dalmatius Moner, C.O.P.**
- 28 Blessed Laurence of Ripafratta, C.O.P.**



Almighty Father,

The love you offer always exceeds the furthest expression of our human longing, for you are greater than the human heart. Direct each thought, each effort of our life, so that the limits of our faults and weaknesses may not obscure the vision of your glory, or keep us from the peace you have promised.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

—Amen.



BOOK REVIEW

“The Beauty of the Eucharist: Voices from the Church Fathers”

By Father Dennis Billy, C.Ss.R.

This is a beautifully written book by a Redemptorist Father. Beginning with Clement of Rome, and concluding with Gregory the Great, Father Billy sees the writings of the Fathers as the “voices of Christianity’s emerging orthodoxy” which came together to “form an inspiring and spirited chant extolling the centrality of the Eucharist for the life of the believing community.” The book is written in a style that is well suited to the way Dominicans

tively. He devotes a twenty-three “voices” order, utilizing a single sent the insights each of faith. He begins by Father, giving some bi- about each of them, discussion of what veals about the Chris- Eucharist. He then with a series of obser- deepen these insights believers in practical



read books: contempla- chapter to each of the in their chronological or- format in which to pre- contributed to the deposit introducing each Church ographical information and then follows with a each particular voice re- tian understanding of the concludes each chapter vations which seek to and apply them to today’s and relevant ways. Each

chapter concludes with reflection questions to help the reader to both delve more deeply into his or her own beliefs about the Eucharist and to draw practical conclusions about its role in our lives. Make no mistake about it, each of the Fathers saw the Eucharist as not only the “source and summit” of the Church’s life, but as the very foundation and ground of their own being. Father Billy reminds us that “today, many Christian communities have lost the sense of the role liturgical worship plays in shaping their faith and providing them with their (moral) bearings.” In fact, our very life flows from the many graces in which we partake every time we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist.

“The Beauty of the Eucharist” (Continued)

My experience in reading this book has been that it deepened my appreciation of the Eucharist as it also broadened my understanding of God’s activity in what Cyprian of Carthage referred to as “the divinization process” whereby we increasingly become more like Christ. Consider this beautiful example from Cyprian as he explores the meaning of the words: “By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.” Cyprian mentions that not only is water used by the Gospel writers as a symbol of Baptism, while bread and wine are used to depict the sacramental action of the Eucharist....but “in the water is understood the people....in the wine the blood of Christ...the association and conjunction of water and wine is so mingled in the Lord’s cup that the mixture cannot anymore be separated.” I am reminded of St. Paul: “What can separate us from the love of God?” The answer: “Nothing.” Cyprian continues: “The mingling of the water and wine signifies not only that Christ unites himself to our humanity (in the Incarnation), but also that we willingly unite ours to his life (in his sacrificial death on the cross).” Two great events take place in the Mass: the transubstantiation of the bread and wine....and the transformation of our lives as we assimilate and are assimilated!

Truly, there is no more profound Reality making its place in our lives than the action of the Eucharist. Thus, Gregory the Great sees the Eucharist as “a place where theology and spirituality, doctrine and spiritual experience converge in the lives of the faithful.”

Let me not be remiss in failing to mention Origen of Alexandria who wrote so extensively on the scriptures attributing three different levels of meaning to the sacred texts: the literal, the moral, and the mystical. He also writes about the Eucharist as having three levels of meaning....which I will leave for you to explore with Origen and the other “voices from the past.”

This book is a “must read” Especially, as we seek to study the biblical roots of the Mass and the mystical height and breadth of a Love so profound that God literally gives of Himself to us in a very personal way!



“The Beauty of the Eucharist” (Concluded)



In the very first line of the Introduction to the book, Father Billy writes, “Someone once called tradition ‘the living faith of the dead’, not ‘the dead faith of the living.’” In the very last line of his book he writes, “It remains for us to make their (the Church Fathers) “living faith” a part of our own Christian experience.” There is no better way to do just that than to enter into the mysteries of our faith...especially that of the Holy Eucharist.

— Mr. George Bercau, O.P.



“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 should have an ever-clearer consciousness not only of belonging to the Church, but of being 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, No. 889, page 259

Dominican Laity Prayer

Loving Lord, through the intercession of our holy father, Dominic, our sister, Catherine of Siena, and our brother, Martin de Porres, raise up vocations to our Province. Send your Holy Spirit to guide and inspire the hearts of men and women to follow in the footsteps of our holy father, Dominic, our sister, Catherine of Siena, and our brother, Martin de Porres. Strengthen us in our vocation for preaching and service to God’s people. May our lives always witness to others the gifts of our common life as Lay Dominicans.

We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. —Amen.



**ST. CECILIA CHAPTER OF THE
DOMINICAN LAITY**

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We are pleased to learn that Sr. Vincent Marie will serve as the new Religious Assistant to the Dominican Laity Chapter....Sister Henry Suso and Sister Mary Karol will stay on as catechists for the Candidate and Temporary Vowed groups. We are indeed blessed to have the Sisters share with us their spiritual journey.

Reminder.....

If you plan to attend the study sessions on the New Translations of the Mass and do not have the study packet, it can be ordered from Ascension Press. The cost of the book and the workbook is \$19.95 plus S&H. It can be ordered by going online:

www.ascensionpress.com

During the months of September thru December, the Dominican Laity will meet in the Oratory on the main floor of the Mother-house. Light refreshments will be available at the break. The meetings will begin promptly at 1:30 pm. There will be a short Business Meeting from 1:30 to 2:00, followed by the Study Session from 2:00 to 4:15. There will be a short break around 3:00. Vespers will be at the usual time (4:45). Be sure to bring your book and workbook with you.



“And was crowned Queen of Heaven
and Earth”

“Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us now
and at the hour of our death.”

Mater Dei

Pray the Rosary

Group Leaders

Inquirers:

Sr. Vincent Marie, O.P.

Mrs. Marilyn Cox, O.P.

Mr. Mike Lucas, O.P.

Candidates:

Sr. Henry Suso, O.P.

Temporary Profession:

Sr. Mary Karol, O.P.

Final Profession:

Sr. Vincent Marie will be pitch-hitting since a fourth sister has not been assigned to help with the Laity this year.

Chapter Officers

Members of the Executive Council

President

Mr. Michael Watson, O.P.

Vice-President

*Mrs. Mary Ann Goodrum,
O.P.*

Treasurer

Mr. Rick Prickett, O.P.

Formation Director

Mrs. Marilyn Cox, O.P.

Secretary and

Newsletter Editor

Mr. George Bercaw, O.P.