

# St. Cecilia Chapter Dominican Laity

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

## Laudare

*Advent—December, 2012*

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*Picture of Advent Wreath  
Dominican House of Studies  
Washington, D.C.*

### *Dr. Michael Kurek*

*A former guest speaker on several occasions in the past, Dr. Michael Kureck has composed a beautiful composition in honor of the Blessed Mother. You may listen to this uplifting recording of a meditation on the Ave Maria at the following link: <http://www.michaelkurek.com/avemaria.html>*

*American composer Michael Kurek's music, hailed for its lush melodicism, has garnered performances by numerous symphony orchestras and chamber groups worldwide. His music has been featured on many radio broadcasts and profiled in national print media. Kurek has received many awards, including the Academy Award in Music from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, also awards from the American Symphony Orchestra League, BMI, NEA, and others. He is a popular guest composer at universities and as an adjudicator of national composition contests. He holds a doctorate in composition from the University of Michigan. Michael currently teaches at Vanderbilt University.*



Editor's Note: God has graciously blessed our Chapter with a number of new Inquirers listening to the still, small voice of God, and seeking a vocational discernment as a Lay Dominican. This month, and in months to come, the *Laudare* will focus on at least one or more of these individuals and present in their own words the movement of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

This month, the *Laudare* is pleased to highlight Vicky Barnes.

*I was always mesmerized by the lives of Saint Rosa of Lima and Saint Martin de Porres. When I was a child I walked the same old colonial streets that my beloved compatriots walked centuries ago. I had visited their homes many times and dreamt about being their helper. I attended mass with my parents at the churches these saints attended. Now, many years later and far away from home I am back contemplating their lives and they are guiding mine as my companions in the journey to our eternal home. They are teaching me to love my Lord as a Dominican.*

*My name is Vicky Barnes. I was born on July 28 in Lima Peru. My parents were devout Catholics and in their desire to give a great education they enrolled me in Mary Helpe of Christians, a Salesian Catholic boarding school. I studied human genetics at the San Marcos University in Lima, Peru. I worked at the university as a researcher and I taught biology. I came to this country to continue my education in genetics. But the Lord had other plans for me. I started to attend the Newman Center; a Catholic youth ministry for college students, where I met my future husband, Tim. We moved to Kentucky to be close to Tim's parents. We became parents of two beautiful children, Virginia and George. Virginia is a senior at Georgia State University and George is a junior at the University of Kentucky. I went back to school to study linguistics, education and curriculum and instruction. I teach foreign languages at a Christian Academy. Tim converted to the Catholic Church a few years after our marriage and was ordained a deacon two months ago. I am blessed to have a loving family and I think there is no better time than this to be a Dominican. The study, prayer life, and the work in the world of the Dominicans is what I strive for in my life now.*

Presently, our Chapter has nine Inquirers who will be received into the Order in February at our Annual Day of Recollection. Another ten Inquirers will be received in September, 2013.

The number of Candidates seeking to make their Temporary Profession in February is six, and there are possibly two individuals who will make their Final Profession at this year's Annual Day of Recollection.

The total number of individuals who are currently on their Dominican journey is sixty-four!

We should remember to include in the closing prayers of our daily recitation of the Divine Office, the Province's *Prayer for the Dominican Laity*.



## *Ex Libris : “Selecting a Bible”*

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Other features a study Bible may have include a lectionary with the Scripture readings for Sundays and weekdays; a four week Psalter; a table of the movable feasts; and prayers, especially the Rosary and biblical meditations for each mystery. There may also be a copy of *Dei Verbum* (the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation) or the papal encyclicals *Providentissimus Deus* (On the Study of Holy Scriptures) by Leo XII, and *Divino Afflante Spiritu* (On the Most Opportune Way to Promote Biblical Studies) by Pius XII. Personally I also like to see the prayer *Veni Creator Spiritus* (Come Holy Spirit) and a listing of the indulgences for reading Scriptures, which are:

*While a partial indulgence is granted to those who read from Sacred Scripture with the veneration which the divine word is due, a plenary indulgence is granted to those who read for at least one half an hour. (The Enchiridion of Indulgences #50)*



## *Dominican Blessed, and other Important December Dates*

### *December 1st : Blessed John of Vercelli*

*Blessed John was born in Italy at the beginning of the Thirteenth Century. A Professor of Law at the University of Paris, he was attracted to the Order of Preachers by Blessed Jordan of Saxony. He served the Order as a Prior, a Provincial, and the sixth Master of the Order from 1264 to 1283. He often consulted Saint Thomas Aquinas, was present at the Council of Lyons, and promoted reverence for the Holy Name of Jesus. He was responsible for the commissioning Nicola Pisana to sculp a marble tomb for the remains of Saint Dominic. He is considered the patron of the Holy Name Society established in 1432.*

### *December 16th : Sebastian Maggi*

*A friar and priest, he was born in 1414 and entered the Order in 1429. Twice he was the Vicar General of the reformed Province of Lombardy and served as prior in several convents. He was one of the notable reformers of Dominican life in the Fifteenth Century.*

### *December 22nd : Commemoration of the Anniversary of the Approval of the Order*



## ***The Season of Receiving: the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ***

***By Mr. Mike (Albert the Great) Lucas, O.P.***

We read the accounts of St. Matthew, about the genealogy of Christ, and St. Luke painting a picture of that day Zachary saw the angel, Gabriel, and was troubled for his prayer was heard by God. He and Elizabeth would have a son and they shall call him, John. This fulfillment of God's promise to his people was that a Messiah will be born to them in the town of David. He will be the Son of the God. The ground work for these events is taking place. When we read these same accounts during Advent, we too, are reminded of the promises God made to His church. We will receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Son of God during the celebration of the Mass and the reception of His Holy Sacraments. But what about the ground work that is needed to be done before this celebration?

We, as lay Dominicans, know that study of Holy Scripture and prayerful reception of the Sacraments aid us in the preparation of our very souls to receive Jesus at Christmas. Every Advent Season is a fresh opportunity to live the announcement of the Angel Gabriel's message. John's father, Zachery, was struck dumb because of his doubting the Holy Message; but we thru our study of the Word of God, the praying for the conversion of souls and the teaching to our fellow Catholics (and neighbors) will renew this message daily. We do this by understanding the readings for our Dominican study and by applying the Faith given to us by the Holy Catholic Church—the Holy Church established by God Himself. Making the stretch from reading and discussing these lessons may not seem to be the “on high message of God – as presented by Gabriel”; but it lays the groundwork for years of testifying to the “Truth” as proclaimed in the Gospel. *“If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.”* (Ps. 95: 7-8)

*“My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready. I will sing and give praise, with thy Glory”* (Ps. 107:2). We use the gifts of the Holy Spirit in proclaiming the Glory of God to each other through evangelization and corporal works of mercy for each other. Forgive me if that sounded “too Franciscan”, but we are to use our faith by meting our neighbor's needs, in his hour of need. This year is the “*Year of the Faith*” and of the “*New Evangelization.*” Let us use the Announcement of the Angel Gabriel to the world:

*“And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the Heavenly army, praising God and saying “Glory to God in the Highest; and on earth peace to men of good will”. (Luke 2:13-14)*

May you and your families enjoy the fruits of Faith and the gifts of the Holy Spirit this Christmas Season 2012, and may 2013 bring us opportunities unlimited in study, prayer, teaching, and thanksgiving - the Season of Receiving the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.

*Note from the Editor...*

*Unfortunately, I was at home nursing whatever sickness it is that has been making the rounds and I missed attending our last Chapter Meeting and missed hearing Dr. Peter Pagan's talk on the Holy Father's lecture given at the University of Regensburg on September 12, 2006, which was entitled, “Faith, Reason and the University: Memories and Reflections.” The talk was, fortunately, recorded and should appear on our website ([www.3optn.com](http://www.3optn.com)) in the near future. I will also have our web master, Larry Pryor, post a copy of the lecture in its entirety for your reference.*

*As you are aware, it is our intention to create an audio file of all the talks given at the Chapter Meetings, as well as any handouts that may be given by the speakers. It will, of course, take time before all of this is in place. We have been especially blessed by having access to any number of terrific speakers —which in no small measure, has been made possible by the Motherhouse.*

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## Prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas

(from Prayers Before Mass)

Almighty and ever-living God, I draw near to the sacrament of your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. I come sick to the physician of life, unclean to the fountain of mercy, blind to the light of eternal brightness, poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. So I ask you, most generous Lord: graciously heal my infirmity, wash me clean, illumine by blindness, enrich my poverty, and clothe my nakedness.

May I receive the Bread of angels, the King of kings and Lord of lords, with such reverence and humility, such contrition and devotion, such purity and faith, and such resolve and determination as may secure my soul's salvation. Grant as I may receive not only the visible sign of the Lord's Body and Blood, but also the reality and the power of the sacrament.

Grant, most kind God, that I may receive the Body of your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, which He received from the virgin Mary, and may receive it in such a way that I become a living part of His Mystical Body and counted among His members. O most loving Father, grant me your beloved Son. While on this earthly pilgrimage, I receive Him under the veil of this sacrament; so may I come at last to see Him face to face for all eternity. For He lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.



—Amen.

## 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*



## Oblatio Sui

(Self-Dedication to Jesus Christ)

*Lord, take all my freedom. Accept my memory, my understanding, and my will. You have given to me all that I have or hold dear. I return it to you, that it may be governed by your will. Give me only the grace and the gift of loving you, and I will be rich enough; I will ask for nothing more. -Amen.*