

St. Cecilia Chapter Dominican Laity

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

Laudare

Lent



March, 2012

Annual Retreat - Saturday March 17, 2012

- 8:30 AM** *Gathering and light refreshments*
- 9:00** ***First conference with Fr. Wilder, O.P.***
- 9:45** *Break*
- 10:00** ***Second conference with Fr. Wilder, O.P.***
- 10:45** *Confessions for those making Promises or being Received*
- 11:30** *Lunch (boxed lunches \$10 per person)*
- 12:30 PM** ***Third conference with Fr. Wilder, O.P.***
- 1:15** *Confessions; Rehearsal for those making Promises or being Received*
- 2:30** ***Mass of Commitment***
- 4:00** *Reception*



***LIST OF THOSE BEING RECEIVED OR MAKING THEIR
PROFESSION AS DOMINICAN LAITY***

THOSE BEING RECEIVED AS CANDIDATES:

***Marilyn Barnes
Laurale Curtsinger
Susan McBride
Christina Pineda
Cara Pryor
Georgette (Cissy) Pampino
Cecilia Smith***

THOSE MAKING THEIR FIRST TEMPORARY PROFESSION:

***Walter Ambrogi (Paul Thomas)
Frank Coughlin (Jordan)
Desera Johnson (Bernadette Martha)
Mark Johnson (Thomas Paul)
Cynthia McMillen (Margaret Aquinas)***

THOSE MAKING THEIR FINAL PROFESSION:

***Colleen Hawkins (Brigid Rose)
Julie Prickett (Margaret)
Rick Prickett (Adrian)
Dan Robbins (Stephen Matthew)***



LET'S BE IN PRAYER FOR EACH OF THEM





Mr. Ray Powell, O.P., Member of The St. Cecilia Chapter of the Dominican Laity, Nashville, Tennessee

Thankful ‘for the great examples of faith’

Ray Powell is inspired by East Tennessee Catholics, his family, and more.

◇ **By Dan McWilliams**

Ray Powell is a Theology I student at Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wis. He is the son of Jesse Powell of Unionville, Mo., and the late Nola Powell. His home parish is St. Stephen in Chattanooga.

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What is your favorite course?

My favorite courses so far have been Catholic ethics and morality. These are the most challenging courses because they bring together all of aspects of my studies and require me to apply my academic knowledge and spirituality to real-world issues and problems. But that challenge is what makes the classes so enjoyable and beneficial. In the study of the Church’s moral teachings, I have come to a deeper realization of the incredible beauty of our faith and how it seamlessly combines with the richness of wisdom in the teachings of the Catholic Church

What do you most look forward to in your future life as a priest?

As part of my discernment I try to focus on my current goals for improvement and not too much on the future, but I will say I hope to help people recognize and respond to the incredible love God has for each of us, in whatever way God may allow me to do so. If I am ordained, God willing, I hope to be able to bring the sacraments as well as a smile along with me wherever I go.

Who has inspired you?

The most important inspirations to me as a seminarian are the Catholic faithful of our diocese who live out their faith as they work to provide for their families and care for others in their community. Of course, the faith and loving support of my family have been extremely important to me. But, I am also thankful for the great examples of faith and hard work I have experienced as a member of the Knights of Columbus. I also am renewed in my faith every time I get to attend my hometown parish Bible study and when I get to see the heartfelt devotion to our Church displayed by the members of the Dominican laity chapter I belong to.

Ray Powell (Continued)

When did you first consider the priesthood?

A possible calling to the priesthood is what led me to join the RCIA program and enter the Catholic Church in 2005 at age 40. Two years later, as I was struggling with my discernment, given my age and being a convert, a parishioner had the courage to approach me and tell me about how that person felt I might have a calling to be a priest. It takes courage to do that, but I hope everyone realizes how powerful an impact he or she can have on some-one discerning God's call by just offering a word of encouragement or by asking whether someone has considered a religious vocation.

What things about you have changed the most as a seminarian?

I have had others tell me they notice a change in my desire to speak to others about the Catholic faith and a new sense of confidence in doing so. As I transition from my past work as a computer programmer into life as a seminary student, I have come to realize how much I truly depend on God and the support of my family, friends, and diocese. I have been blessed to see and experience so many beautiful faith-filled moments during my short time as a seminarian, and it has helped me realize how truly blessed I am.

Along with their prayers for you, is there another way East Tennessee Catholics can support you?

Well, prayerful support is the most important. It is so very comforting to know that people are praying for us, as we certainly pray for them. After prayer, I think the next best way to support a seminarian is by supporting our bishop with your prayers and your encouragement, and by responding as you are able to the Bishop's Appeal. It is an incredible gift to be able to attend seminary to discern and study in preparation for ministry, something that would not be possible without the kindness, faith, and generosity of all the devoted Catholics of eastern Tennessee who work in so many different ways to support our diocese. Attending seminary has been a wonderful blessing for me, and I try to pass along to others that depth of faith and the overwhelming kindness I experience whenever I return home to East Tennessee. Thank you so much for that continued blessing.

(Reprinted from the East Tennessee Catholic, March, 2012)

Ray's mailing address is:

*Mr. Ray Powell, O.P.
Sacred Heart School of Theology
Post Office Box 429
Hales Corner, WI 53130-0429*



From a sermon by Saint Leo the Great, Pope

"Dear Friends, at every moment the earth is full of the mercy of God..... The whole Church rejoices in the forgiveness of sins..... Initially, men are made new by the rebirth of baptism. Yet there is still required the daily renewal to repair the shortcomings of our mortal nature, and whatever degree of progress has been made there is no one who should not be more advanced."

*-from the Liturgy of the Hours
Volume II—Lent, Page 60*



Lenten Love and Mercy

We are celebrating another Lenten Season, 2012; I cannot remember what I gave up or what resolutions I failed to complete from last year. Isn't God wonderful in His Divine Plan? He is giving all of us another chance to show Him how much we love Him. Some of us will say the Stations of the Cross on Fridays, pray during Thursday Adorations of the Holy Eucharist, and remember what the ashes meant to us on Ash Wednesday.

Jesus Christ lived and died for all mankind. Yet only "the many", not all, will actually say yes when He calls. All have free will and the ability to pray and love God and neighbor. Why? Must be the question Almighty God asks Himself when we do not forgive and forget. Imagine the pain He felt during every stage of His passion and death; He never once said an unkind word to His accusers; He never accused His Apostles of desertion (even though they deserted Him); He never told His Father to stop and take this "cup" from Him. No, despite it all, He said: "forgive them for they know not what they do." So what do we need to take from Our Lord's example? Will we forgive them for they know not what they do? Or will we harbor evil thoughts and withhold *love and mercy*?

God will talk to us in the storms and dark nights of our lives, and He will give us the opportunity to hear His message of "*Love and Mercy*" in the quiet voices of His angels, children and neighbors calling to us every day. Yes, the voice of God is there. If you don't hear Him the first time; He will give you many opportunities to say: yes, Lord. The next time you attend Mass and share in the Thanksgiving of the Lord, His divine banquet, listen for His calling. He always hears your prayers to Him; will you listen for Him when he calls YOU?

Like many of you, I have had many Lenten Seasons to hear His Voice of "*Love and Mercy*". Maybe this year, I will answer Him. God's Blessing *to the many* this Lent; and may Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, call you today.

-John Michael "Mike" (Brother Albert) Lucas



"Living with Life's Tensions"

Thomas Szasz, an American psychiatrist, published a series of books in the 1970's in which the central theme was that most of what mental health workers are treating as "mental illness" is, in reality, "problems with living": having to cope with the vicissitudes of life...the day to day demands and challenges of relationships, work, school, trying to "make ends meet."

One of the recent Readings from the Liturgy of the Hours (Vol. II, First Week of Lent, page 139) was taken from the "Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World." One paragraph from that reading in particular caught my eye : "The tensions disturbing the world of today are in fact related to a more fundamental tension rooted in the human heart. In man himself many elements are in conflict with each other. On one side, he has experience of his many limitations as a creature. On the other, he knows that there is no limit to his aspirations, and that he is called to a higher kind of life." That brings to mind something that a psychologist by the name of Spangler once said: "There are varying levels of reality." Some people live out their life at a lesser, lower level of reality; whereas, others live on a much higher plane. The Vatican Council's document goes on to say that "many things compete for our attention, and we are always compelled to make a choice among them, and to renounce some." This need to choose at which level of reality we want to live, creates much of the tension we experience.

These tensions posit important questions in our lives; as the Vatican Council document says, "people are asking the most fundamental questions... what is the meaning of pain, of evil, of death?" The document concludes by saying that "the Church believes that the center and goal of all human history (and the answer to all our questions!) is found in her Lord and Master."

Our spiritual journey as Dominican Laity poses its own set of tensions...and questions. As Inquirers, the central question is , "What is Dominican Laity all about?" ... As Candidates, the question become more personal: "Is this for me?" ... While those who have made a Temporary Profession are concerned with "How do I live the Dominican Charism? ... Can I do it?... Can I be faithful?" ... The ultimate question arises when it becomes time to make that Final Profession: "Will I join my "yes" to God's "yes" and truly live the life and experience the higher reality of a life centered in Christ." That is the Ultimate Reality!

-Mr. George Bercaw, O.P., Editor

ST. CECILIA CHAPTER DOMINICAN LAITY

Dominican Sisters of St. Dominic
801 Dominican Drive
Nashville, TN 37228-1909



Mr. George Bercaw, O.P., Editor
Dominicanlaity.editor@gmail.com
1145 North Concord Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421

Phone: (423) 309-1798

There are several books that every Catholic should own:

- 1) A Prayer Book -
Preferably, the Liturgy of the Hours**
- 2) The Roman Missal**
- 3) The Catechism**
- 4) A Good Catholic Study Bible**

**“If you can’t study, you can’t be a Dominican....
Contemplative Study is one of our Charisms”**



Prayer for the Consecration of Our Country to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

“Most Holy Trinity: Our Father in heaven, who chose Mary as the fairest of your daughters; Holy Spirit, who chose Mary as your spouse; God the Son, who chose Mary as your Mother; in union with Mary, we adore your majesty and acknowledge your supreme, eternal dominion and authority.

Most Holy Trinity, we put the United States of America into the hands of Mary Immaculate in order that she may present the country to you. Through her we wish to thank you for the great resources of this land and for the freedom, which has been its heritage.

Through the intercession of Mary, have mercy on the Catholic Church in America. Grant us peace. Have mercy on our president and on all officers of our government. Grant us a fruitful economy born of justice and charity.

Have mercy on capital and industry and labor. Protect the family life of the nation. Guard the precious gift of many religious vocations. Through the intercession of our Mother, have mercy on the sick, the poor, the tempted, sinners—on all who are need.

Mary, Immaculate Virgin, our Mother, Patroness of our land, we praise and honor you and give our country and ourselves to your sorrowful and Immaculate Heart. O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, pierced by the sword of sorrow prophesied by Simeon, save us from degeneration, disaster, and war.

Protect us from all harm. O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, you who bore the sufferings of your Son in the depths of your heart, be our advocate. Pray for us, that acting always according to your will and the will of your divine Son, we may live and die pleasing to God.