



MISSION WEST

A newsletter for friends of the Dominican Friars, Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

DEFENDING GOODNESS IN THE MODERN WORLD

**“The light shines in the darkness, and the
darkness has not overcome it.” –John 1:5**

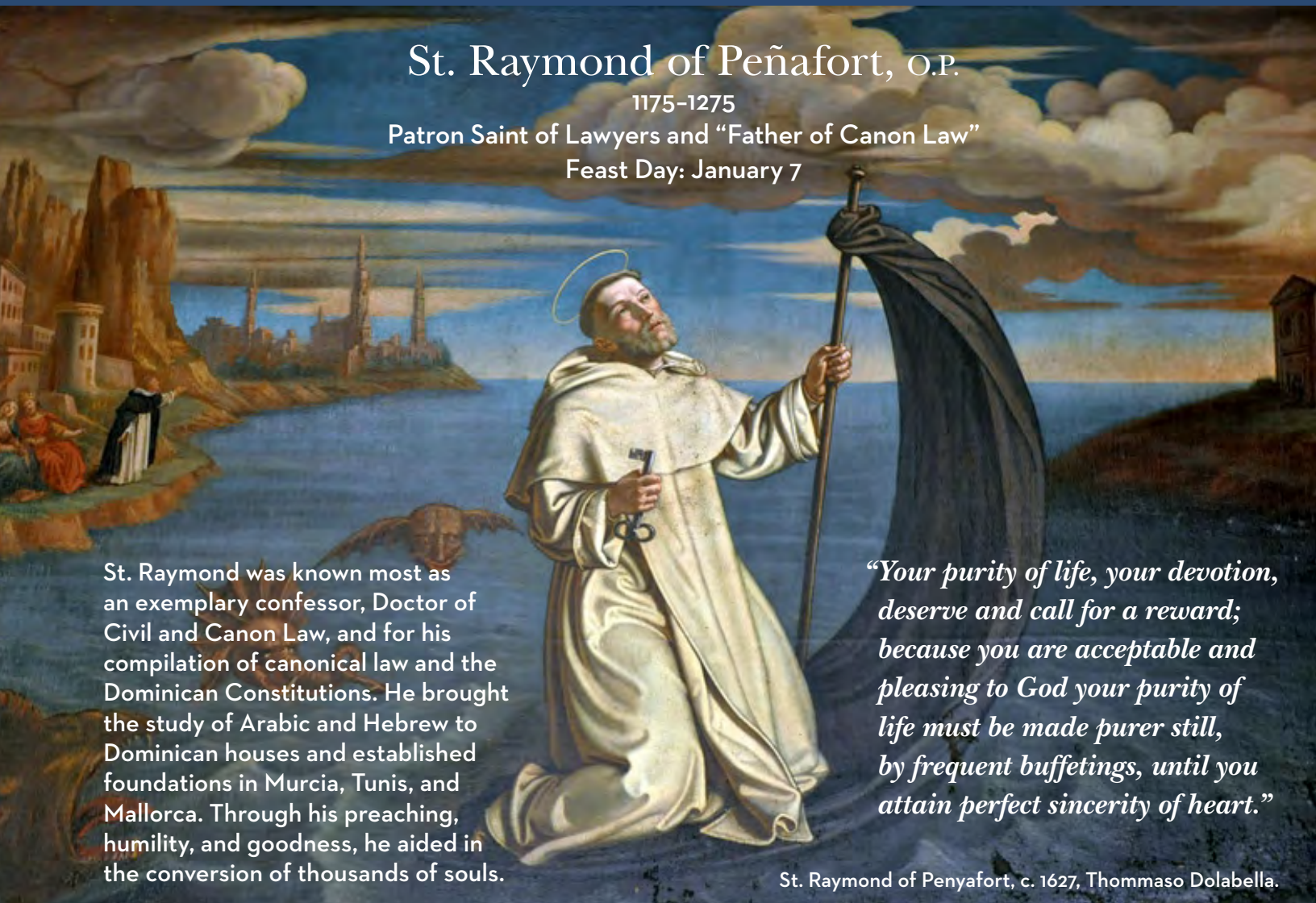
- ✦ **Meet the Novices**
- ✦ **Preserving the Truth: Restoring
a 500-year-old Bible**
- ✦ **Your Gifts Transform Ukraine**
- ✦ **Year in Review: the Fruits of
Your Support**

St. Raymond of Peñafort, O.P.

1175-1275

Patron Saint of Lawyers and “Father of Canon Law”

Feast Day: January 7



St. Raymond was known most as an exemplary confessor, Doctor of Civil and Canon Law, and for his compilation of canonical law and the Dominican Constitutions. He brought the study of Arabic and Hebrew to Dominican houses and established foundations in Murcia, Tunis, and Mallorca. Through his preaching, humility, and goodness, he aided in the conversion of thousands of souls.

“Your purity of life, your devotion, deserve and call for a reward; because you are acceptable and pleasing to God your purity of life must be made purer still, by frequent buffetings, until you attain perfect sincerity of heart.”

St. Raymond of Peñafort, c. 1627, Thommaso Dolabella.

Do you know the miracle depicted above? Read more about St. Raymond at opwest.org/straymondstory

DID YOU KNOW?

Since its earliest days, the Order of Preachers has been a democratic institution. In fact, the Order is one of the oldest continuous representative democracies in the world!

The most important moment in the governance of a Dominican province is the Provincial Chapter. Held every four years, the Chapter is a gathering of elected friars to represent the needs of their local church, discuss changes to province legislation, address important issues, and elect friars to leadership positions, including the leader of the province, the Prior Provincial.

Please pray for the Dominicans as they enter their next Provincial Chapter in January 2023, asking for the Holy Spirit’s continued guidance.



Friars gather in St. Albert the Great Priory Chapel as part of the 2019 Provincial Chapter.

From the Vicar Provincial for Advancement

Are you prepared for all three “Advents?”



Dear Friends in Christ,

As we approach the end of the calendar year, our liturgical year begins with the great season of Advent!

Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “a coming,” or “important arrival.” Most people view Advent as merely a time to get ready for Christmas, and many celebrate early by decorating and throwing parties. But Advent is far more complex than that.

Every Advent season should call to mind three Advents. We look to the past—to the arrival of the Christ Child in Bethlehem. We look to the future—to the coming arrival of Christ the King at the end of time. And the third Advent is for today—welcoming Christ into our hearts this very moment!

This is why the Advent season has a penitential character, and should be marked with fasting and watchfulness. In a time when the secular world feasts and celebrates Christmas early, we Catholic Christians prayerfully reflect on Christ’s birth, resurrection, and presence in our lives today. We go to Confession and invite Christ into our hearts now through prayer and silence so as to be better prepared for the Feast of Christmas!

However, we are out of step with the world in this aspect as around us many are already celebrating—and often celebrating Christmas without Christ—I encourage you, my brothers and sisters, to remain steadfast and spend your Advent season growing closer to Christ as we approach the Nativity.

In this newsletter, like in Advent, we review the past year, and look forward to the coming year with anticipation. We also celebrate the ways Christ is working within the Dominican Order right now as we continue to preach and bring the light of Christ into a spiritually dark world.

May each of us have the Grace to keep a good and holy Advent! May we keep watch for Christ and point Him out when He comes! And may His coming continue to bring hope to a cold and sad world.

In Christ and St. Dominic,

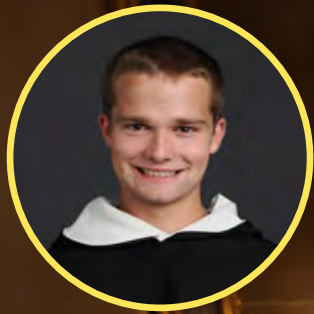
Very Rev. James Junipero Moore, O.P.
Vicar Provincial for Advancement

Cover Photo: Br. Matthew Wanner, O.P., in a prayerful moment as he renewed his simple vows in August.

Four More Faithful Men Enter the Dominican Novitiate

God continues to bless our province with young men eager to give their lives to preach the Gospel! During their novitiate year, these men spend their days in prayerful contemplation and service. Thank you for praying for them and for supporting their formation through your generosity.

Br. Anthony Michael Martin



Br. Anthony Michael is from Portland, Oregon. He graduated with a B.S. in Computer Science from Oregon State University, and then served as a Volunteer Missionary to the students on campus and at the Newman Center at Oregon State University. Br. Anthony has a great devotion to Mary. He often contemplates the mystery of Jesus entrusting Mary to the beloved disciple from the cross.

“When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple he loved standing near, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son!’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold your mother.’”

—John 19:26-27a

Br. Anthony recently learned to make paracord Rosaries so he can help others draw closer to Christ through Mary’s intercession.

Br. Paul Goergen



Br. Paul is from St. Louis, Missouri. After graduating with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Missouri University of Science and Technology, he worked for a few years as a software developer. He entered seminary and studied for both the Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas, and the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter before determining the Lord was leading him elsewhere. Br. Paul feels a similar dynamic of faith as when Jesus called St. Peter out onto the water.

“Peter answered him, ‘Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water.’ He said, ‘Come.’ So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.”

—Matthew 14:28-29

Br. Paul hopes to ponder the Scriptures more profoundly so he can fulfill the Dominican ideal to contemplate and hand on to others the fruits of contemplation.

Br. Thomas Maria Johns



Br. Thomas Maria grew up in Puyallup, Washington. After an early interest in Aerospace Engineering, he shifted tracks and earned a double major in Philosophy and Mathematics at Gonzaga University while studying as a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Seattle. Br. Thomas looks to St. Thomas Aquinas as a model for his Dominican life, particularly noting Thomas’s love of Truth and zeal for study. He also shares the Angelic Doctor’s love of the Eucharist and frequently savors the Bread of Life Discourse in John 6.

“Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Will you also go away?’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.’”

—John 6:67-68

Br. Thomas prays that he will have the supernatural faith to stand by Jesus and confess his belief like St. Peter.

Br. Alphonsus Vu



Br. Alphonsus was born in Vietnam and moved with his family to Orange County, California, when he was a teenager. Br. Alphonsus earned a B.S. in Biology and an M.A. in Teaching from UC Irvine. For the past several years he has worked as a substitute teacher in a local school system while teaching catechism at his parish. Jesus' invitation in Matthew 11 gives him great trust in God and the Father's providential care for each of us.

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

—Matthew 11:28-29

Br. Alphonsus finds the rest promised by Christ when praying the Rosary and hopes to lead others to find their rest in Jesus through Mary's loving presence and intercession.

Join the Advent Matching Gift Challenge!

Support these young men, and all their brothers, and double your impact.

LEARN MORE ON P. 11 OR VISIT
opwest.org/advent2022

Preserving a Treasure of the Church

How a 500-year-old translation of the Bible is being restored by Western Dominicans

In their pursuit of truth, Dominicans around the world preserve rare documents and historical records unavailable for wide public distribution.



Fr. Augustine Thompson, O.P., and conservationist Gillian Boal, work to preserve Truth for future generations by restoring our rare *Complutensian Bible*.

Biblical history and research are a crucial part of preserving and preaching the Truth of the Gospel. And so, the restoration of a rare *Complutensian Polyglot Bible* is important not just to historians, but to all of us who work to preserve and uphold the Word of God.

What is the *Complutensian Polyglot Bible*?

A polyglot is a book containing side-by-side versions of the same text in several different languages. Complutensian refers to its 16th-century publisher, Universidad Complutense. This Bible is the first multilingual printed edition of the entire Bible (Old and New Testament), and it consists of a six-volume set printed side-by-side in Aramaic, Hebrew, Latin Vulgate, and Greek.

It includes the first printed editions of the Greek New Testament, the complete Greek Old Testament (Septuagint), and the Hebrew Targum Onkelos (the first five books of the Old Testament). The Library of Congress describes this Polyglot Bible as follows:

The book represents the height of Spanish typographic achievement in the 16th century. ... The printing was

2022 Year in Review

Your generosity and prayers supported another year of preaching the Gospel! Here are just a few accomplishments and milestones from the past year.

University Catholic Conference of California (UCCC) hosted at St. Albert's Priory



Dominicans marched in the Walk for Life West Coast.

FEBRUARY

Fr. Augustine Thompson, O.P., assumed the role of President of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies.

MARCH



Dominicans joined the Holy Father in consecrating Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

APRIL

Fr. Brian Mullady, O.P., was awarded the *Pro Fidelitate et Virtute* Award by the Institute on Religious Life.

done between 1514 and 1517, but it was not until 1520—after receiving authorization from Rome—that the book was distributed. The Bible consists of separately-bound volumes adding up to 1,500 pages; 600 copies were printed on paper, and six on vellum.

Of the original 600 six-volume sets that were printed, only twenty-three full sets are known to have survived to date, and the Western Dominican archives has one of them.

The Bible came into Dominican hands in the late 1920s as a gift from a Mexican bishop who sought refuge at St. Dominic's Church from the persecution of Christians during the Cristero Wars in Mexico. While we don't know the complete history of how the rare edition was acquired by the bishop's diocese in Mexico, the marks on the title page of each volume indicate it was originally part of a library in Spain.

For over a year, Fr. Augustine Thompson, O.P., has directed the restoration of the six-volume *Complutensian Bible* by local book and archive conservator, Gillian Boal. Fr. Augustine Thompson, O.P.,

is a historian of Medieval Christianity, specializing in Medieval Church history, philosophy, theology, and history of canon law. He currently serves as President of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in Canada.



The volumes are bound in sheepskin leather, stained with oxalic acid, and decorated with gold tooling on the spines. Over the centuries, the Bible's condition has deteriorated and sustained damage. To prevent further deterioration, and to preserve this rare edition for future study and reference, a thorough restoration was in order.

Your support allows the Dominicans to preserve a rare, multilingual edition of sacred scripture—one of only twenty-three sets remaining in the world!

Thanks to the generous support of friends of the Dominicans, Gillian has meticulously treated and repaired the delaminating book covers, mended
(Continued on p. 8)



Four more friars professed solemn (lifelong) vows



A gathering of all our friars at Provincial Assembly

MAY

Fr. Anselm Ramelow, O.P., was published in *Word on Fire's* *The New Apologetics*. Find more "Friars in Print" in our last issue of *Mission West*, or at opwest.org/friarsinprint2022.



A class of future teachers and preachers graduated from DSPT.

JUNE



Three more Dominican priests ordained by Bishop Robert Barron

tears, and reattached the pages by sewing through the original sewing holes with new cords. Being in the presence of this great 16th-century work is captivating—evidence of the printer’s thumbprint on a page, the extreme care taken to carefully hand-sew each of its 1,500 pages. Likewise,

the treasure of observing the restoration of a piece of history is equally captivating as our Dominican archivists collaborate with Gillian’s conservation expertise to restore the Bible to its rightful splendor.

Entrusted to our care, the *Complutensian Bible* tangibly connects us to the centuries of preachers who came before us. By preserving an early translation of sacred scripture, we are able to preserve the truth of our salvation history, the prophecies fulfilled by Christ, the words of the apostles.

Preservation work on the *Complutensian Polyglot Bible* from early 1500s.



Death of our beloved brother, Fr. Denis Reilly, O.P., a faithful priest for 52 years



Fr. Michael Hurley, O.P., and Fr. Bernhard Blankenhorn, O.P., served as delegates at the Order’s General Chapter in Mexico.

JULY



Campus ministers at the Dominican Institute for Student Ministry

AUGUST



Five student brothers renewed their simple vows to the Dominican Order.

A Story of God's Providence in Ukraine

The lasting impact of your generosity and our longstanding friendship with Polish Dominicans

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, friends like you have contributed \$1.3M in aid to Ukrainian refugees served by our Dominican brothers in Poland and Ukraine. Thank you!

Over the months of the war, hundreds of tons of food have been delivered to refugees, as well as critical medical supplies. Without the grace of God and your kindness, countless men, women, and children would have suffered even more.

Fr. Christopher Fadok, O.P., our Prior Provincial, traveled to Poland in September to see the impact of your donations, visiting some of



Thanks to your generosity, we delivered great news to our Polish and Ukrainian brothers who wish to build longterm refugee housing in Fastiv.

(R to L): Fr. Christopher Fadok, O.P., with the Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church and several Polish Dominicans, including Fr. Jacek Buda, O.P.

the Dominicans' ministry sites in Ukraine, including Kyiv and Fastiv.

Fr. Christopher experienced a particularly impactful story of God's providence. The St. Martin de Porres Center, a Dominican ministry offering aide to the most vulnerable (elderly, orphans, the disabled, the impoverished, etc.) acquired a three-story building in

Fastiv which they hoped to renovate into long-term housing for refugee families.

As he walked through the unfinished building, Fr. Christopher was told of the need for an estimated \$800,000 needed to complete the first phase of the project. In a grace-filled moment, he recalled he had not yet told the Dominicans in Poland and Ukraine that \$800,000 was exactly what remained to be sent to them from our Province—the balance of your donations! When he announced this to the friars, the joy was indescribable. Amid a terrible war, you brought the comfort and joy of Christ to Ukraine.

Read more about Fr. Christopher's travels in Poland and Ukraine and browse photos from his trip by visiting opwest.org/ukraine. You'll also find impactful stories from our Polish brothers on the ground in Ukraine and learn more about how you've helped serve Ukraine's most vulnerable in this time of need.



Four novices received the Dominican habit and began their novitiate year.

Two student brothers were ordained to the Diaconate.



Master of the Order, Fr. Gerard Timoner, O.P., visited the province.

SEPTEMBER



Death of our beloved brother, Fr. Thomas Hayes, O.P., a faithful priest for 63 years

Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology Upcoming Events

Engaging contemporary culture with timeless wisdom



DSPT College of Fellows at Annual Convocation in 2020, along with past presidents Fr. Peter Rogers, O.P., and Fr. Michael Sweeney, O.P.

Convocation of the College of Fellows: February 4, 2023

The College of Fellows is a group of distinguished lay Catholics who bring various disciplines of modern society into dialogue with philosophy and theology. Each year, DSPT hosts a Convocation of the College of Fellows during which our community engages topics of significance to the Church, the academy, and the world.

This year, the Open Session of Annual Convocation will take place on February 4. The topic will be “The Church in the Modern World...And in These Times,” and will engage the Pastoral Constitution, *Gaudium et Spes* (1965).

For more information and to register, visit: dspt.edu/convocation-of-the-college-of-fellows.

Aquinas Lecture: March 9, 2023

DSPT will host its Annual Aquinas Lecture on March 9. This lecture, designed to engage contemporary scholarship and culture in a way that enriches both, will be given by theologian Dr. Matthew Levering on “Christ’s Cross at the Center of the Mystical Body: Scripture, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Recent Theology.”



For more information and to register, visit: dspt.edu/annual-aquinas-lecture.



OCTOBER

Fr. Allen Moran, O.P., was installed as the new President of DSPT.

Our annual Rosary Sunday: Dominican Student Appeal continues as a major fundraiser for our friars in formation.



Dominicans led thousands in the annual St. Jude Pilgrimage in San Francisco.

Rosary Sunday

DOMINICAN STUDENT APPEAL



“I’m truly humbled by faithful Catholics like you who gave of themselves so the Gospel may be preached. It reminds me that all I have comes as a gift through the grace of God!”

—Br. Matthew Wanner, O.P.



THOMISTIC
INSTITUTE

NOVEMBER

Two diocesan priests began formation in the Priestly Fraternity of St. Dominic.

DECEMBER

St. Albert’s Priory hosted a Thomistic Institute Retreat for undergraduate and graduate students.

End of Year Giving Opportunities

Double Your Impact Before December 31st

Join the \$100,000 Advent Matching Gift Challenge!

A group of generous friends has offered a \$100,000 Matching Gift Challenge! This generous opportunity means any gift you plan to make during Advent, Christmas, or by the end of the year will immediately be doubled.

Help us meet this challenge by making a gift by December 31st!

Qualified Charitable Distributions

Qualified Charitable Distributions are one of the savviest ways for individuals age 70.5+ to use their IRAs to maximize their charitable impact. Learn more at the link above.

Make a One-Time Gift

Give securely at opwest.org/give

Make a secure gift online before the December 31 tax deadline. Have an immediate impact on the ministry of the Dominicans and increase your tax deductions!

Donate Stock

Visit opwest.org/stock or call (510) 295-0115

Avoid capital gains tax and help the friars by donating publicly traded stock to the Western Dominican Province. Visit the link above for more instructions or give us a call!

Join the 1216 Monthly Giving Society

Sign-up at opwest.org/1216

Join nearly 400 friends around the world and become a monthly donor to the Dominicans. Direct your gift to support our Rosary Center, House of Studies, Dominican School, or the greatest need of the friars.

Include the Dominicans in Your Estate Plans

Learn more at opwest.org/plannedgiving

Remember the Dominicans in your will, trust, or retirement accounts. Your advisor can help you include the Western Dominican Province as a full or partial beneficiary of your estate. Then let us know your plans, so we can enroll you in the St. Dominic Legacy Society. Don’t have a will? Visit FreeWill.com/opwest to make one for free.

Join the Advent Matching Gift Challenge and Double Your Impact!

Visit opwest.org/advent2022

A Profile in Generosity: Jon and Teresita Stark

Celebrating 25 Years of Giving

How were you first connected to the Dominicans?

Our connection began in friendship with the late Fr. Antonio Moreno, O.P., who became part of our family—a great dinner guest and spiritual father. After Fr. Moreno's death in 1995, our relationship with the Dominicans went dormant until we were invited to a fundraiser for the University of Santo Tomas and met Fr. Michael Sweeney, O.P., who was President of the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology (DSPT). A friendship with Fr. Sweeney blossomed, and he soon

layperson experiences. They are doing a great thing by bringing studies of philosophy and theology into dialogue with the outside world. It's such a beautiful combination!

What's a favorite memory you have of the Dominicans?

We still remember Fr. Moreno's visits—always a Mass before dinner and spirited conversation. His phone calls when we were in crisis were always full of empathy and promise of prayers.

Dominican Friar Antonio Moreno, O.P., seen here holding the Stark's oldest grandson, taught the Starks the meaning of true Christian friendship.



The Starks, seen here with DSPT President Fr. Allen Moran, O.P., support the Dominicans because their preaching is relatable to laypersons interacting with a secular world.

What does supporting the Dominicans do for you?

The Dominicans have been a source of support and practical guidance for our family over the years, and we are forever grateful. Our relationship with the friars made them part of our family. And they made us a part of theirs! They've taught us so much about our faith, what a true Christian family is, and have walked with us through many stages of life. The

invited us to the DSPT's Convocation of the College of Fellows. We were so impressed by the idea to bring together lay men and women who do important work in the world, but still maintain a close connection with Church teaching.

way Dominicans apply their knowledge to the contemporary issues of the world has guided us as we integrate our faith into our daily trials and tribulations.

Why do you choose to give to the Dominicans?

We love the way Dominicans integrate the head and the heart. They are so intellectual and immersed in their spiritual mission, yet they are able to relate to the world around them. There isn't a dichotomy. They have empathy and understanding of what the

Is there anything else you feel inspired to share?

As we spent this time thinking back on our friendship with the friars, it's reminded us that the Dominicans are always here for us. It can be a very secular world, and then suddenly a Dominican in his habit is bringing a beautiful presence into that world.

Our sincere gratitude is extended to all those who helped make this edition of the newsletter possible.
