

# MISSION WEST

A PUBLICATION OF THE WESTERN DOMINICAN PROVINCE  
ISSUE 1 ... SPRING 2009

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*Better to illuminate  
than merely to shine,  
to deliver to others  
contemplated truths  
than merely to  
contemplate.*

~ Saint Thomas Aquinas

## Two Dominican Friars Ordained in the Western Dominican Province

The decision to enter into a life of service to God and fellow man as a Dominican priest is usually not one that comes easily nor quickly to most. This is true in the lives of the two most recently ordained Dominican priests, Fr. Raphael Mary Salzillo, O. P. and Fr. Peter Hoang Do, O. P. Both men were ordained priests on May 30th. Each friar's story is unique but share a common thread of early certainty to their calling followed by times of doubt, reaffirmation, and finally a joyful decision to embrace the life of a Dominican.

The journey of formation as a Dominican priest is a long one. From the time a man enters the Novitiate to ordination, eight years of discernment, service, and study have passed. By the time Fr. Salzillo and Fr. Do took their vows, they had become well-educated, well-trained, and well prepared to preach God's Word. Below, each shares his story of the journey from God's calling to ordination.

### FR. RAPHAEL'S JOURNEY STARTED IN FLORENCE, A LITTLE TOWN ON THE OREGON COAST.

*"I grew up as the oldest of three children and was raised as an evangelical Protestant. When I was 15, my mother was attracted to the Catholic Church and decided to enter the Church along with my father. My parents did not pressure me to become Catholic as well, but after a long year of wrestling with God I began to experience an intense desire to receive Our Lord in the Eucharist. This, more than any other factor, was what drew me into the Roman Catholic Church.*

*Just a year later, at the age of 16, I had a spiritual experience during Mass that made me think God was calling me to be a priest. However, this idea was troublesome and I tried hard to convince myself that this was my imagination. Even though I was never quite able to succeed at this, I was at least able to push the memory of this experience into the dark*



Our new Fathers (from right to left): Fr. Peter Hoang Do, O.P. and Fr. Raphael Mary Salzillo, O.P.

*recesses of my mind and I did not think about it much during the course of the next eight years of my life.*

*I earned a bachelor's degree in applied physics from Caltech and was working on a Ph.D. at UC San Diego when God began to "bug me" again with an invitation to a priestly vocation. This time God's Will was made manifest to me in more subtle ways, such as through friends at the Newman Center at UCSD, and through a growing interest in philosophy, theology, and Church history. Once open to the vocation of priesthood, a mysterious and new desire to give my life to God began to grow in my heart little by little. Finally, by God's grace I started to develop a devotion to the Virgin Mary. I believe that it was ultimately Our Lady who led me to lovingly accept the Will of God and serve His people through the ordained priesthood.*

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ISSUE 1 SPRING 2009

*Mission West*, is a publication of the Western Dominican Province. For the past 158 years, the western Dominicans have preached God's Truth and served and comforted His People throughout a 10 state region in the American West, Mexico, and various missions around the world. Subscription to *Mission West* is free; please visit our website at [www.opwest.org](http://www.opwest.org), or contact our Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship staff listed below for more information.

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## From the Provincial...

DEAR FRIARS AND FRIENDS,

Welcome to our first edition of *Mission West*, the official newsletter of the Western Dominican Province. It is designed to keep the friars and friends of the Province up-to-date on what is happening in our various ministries and in the Houses of Formation. *Mission West* was chosen as the name not simply because our Province's mission is to the western states but because it is the title of our Province's history, written by our own Father Fabian Parmisano, O.P.

The Dominican friars of our Province are engaged in a wide variety of ministries and activities that promote the spiritual life of over 20,000 families in parishes and Newman Centers in seven western states as well as thousands of individuals in missions in Mexico, Guatemala, Kenya, and Lithuania. *Mission West* will also help you keep track of the Dominicans who may have touched your life and are now serving elsewhere.

Although rooted in revered Catholic traditions, we strive to keep the faith alive and relevant to today's world. For example, Fr. Michael Morris, O.P. (who teaches at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology) recently gave a presentation at the Museum of Biblical Art in New York City entitled "Reel Religion." His presentation on the presence of religious motifs in movie poster was written up in the Los Angeles Times (March 9, 2009)

In our lead article we present the Province's two newly ordained priests, Fr. Raphael M. Salzillo, O.P. and Fr. Peter Do, O.P. Before joining the Province in 2002, both earned degrees in the sciences at notable universities. After eight years of formation including earning advanced degrees at our own Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, Father Raphael and Father Peter were ordained on May 30th. We invite you to join in their ordination through your prayers for their successful lives as Dominican priests.

Other articles will focus on life and activities in our many parishes and Newman Centers. Individual Dominicans will contribute articles about their work and ministries. We will also feature stories about artifacts from our archives highlighting the 159 year history of the Dominicans in the western United States. Our goal is to communicate the vibrancy of our faith as it is observed throughout the Province.

On a more secular note, one of our major endeavors has been the organization of our Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship under the directorship of Mr. Tom Hyland. He oversees activities that secure gifts in support of the Province's ministry through the education, cultivation, solicitation, and appreciation of current and prospective donors. Individuals interested in learning more about sharing their time, talent, and treasure in support of our mission should contact the Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship.

And so dear friars and friends, we look forward to communicating the ministry of the Province through *Mission West* so that we may be united in prayer and collaboration as God's instruments for blessings on our mission to the peoples of the western states, following the example of the first Christian missionaries who joined together constantly in prayer for the sake of the Gospel (cf. Acts 1:14).

In His love and peace,  
Very Rev. Emmerich Vogt, O. P.  
*Prior Provincial*





## FROM THE PRIORY St. Albert the Great Priory

By Fr. Gerald Buckley, O.P., Prior

OUR WESTERN DOMINICAN HOUSE OF STUDIES, St. Albert the Great Priory, was founded as and was formerly known as St. Albert's College. Most of the academic courses have been transferred to the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley while St. Albert's remains the residence and training ground for our aspiring friars in liturgical prayer and community life. The two sister institutions together form our young Dominicans for their apostolate.

St. Albert's is located on some five wooded acres in the venerable Rockridge district of Oakland at the end of a birch-lined cul-de-sac. It is a beautiful setting for this graceful neo-Gothic building, which is celebrating its seventy-fifth year. The three-story building consists of an older wing and a newer wing, which together face an enclosed cloister garden from three sides. A fine chapel encloses the fourth, or north, side of the cloister. The setting is extraordinarily peaceful in the midst of a busy and noisy city. Even the neighborhood residents look upon the site with pride.

St. Albert's houses two communities, although they intermingle at prayer, meals and recreation. The larger community consists of the student friars, or seminarians. Currently there are 19 students living at St. Albert's, although there are several more in a residency year in one or another of our Dominican houses. The students are under a Student Master, whose responsibility it is to look after and direct their development. Father Kieran Healy, O. P., is Student Master in his second term. While in the residence, the students are assigned certain responsibilities in the house organization, such as student sacristan, guest master, infirmarian, social chairman, and so on. Each day during the academic year they travel to the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology for their courses.



St. Albert the Great Priory cloister garden, Oakland, CA

The other community consists of the seniors. These include the professors, the officers of the priory, such as the prior, who is the overall superior of the house, the sub-prior, the procurator (or treasurer), the sacristan, etc., and the elderly and infirmed fathers and brothers. There are 17 friars in the senior community. In chapel, both communities together form the choir. Choir here does not mean a professional singing group specializing in choral music concerts, but a group of friars chanting together the Divine Office of the Church and celebrating the daily Liturgy, which is open to the public.

We are most fortunate to have the blessing of St. Albert's Priory, a house dedicated to the greater glory of God. And we are most grateful to our benefactors who keep the house in existence.

When your travels bring you to the San Francisco Bay Area, please join us for mass. It is celebrated Monday through Friday at 5:00 p.m., Saturday at 8:00 a.m. and Sunday at 9:30a.m.



## WESTERN DOMINICAN PARISHES

By Fr. Finbarr Hayes, O.P.

DOMINICANS IN THE WESTERN PROVINCE serve parishes from Anchorage in Alaska to Maxicali in Baja California. Starting in 1851, our early friars settled in San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, and Los Angeles, as well as Benicia, Antioch, and Berkeley in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In the raw West of 1850, what the Church needed was priests to build unpretentious churches and schools and teach the rudiments of the faith. Dominicans helped the bishops in that task to the best of their abilities and resources. Since that time, the Dominican presence has expanded to 19 communities.

The parish is the building block of Catholic Christian life. It is in the parish that the new Catholic, infant or adult is baptized, receives the Eucharist, confesses sin, is confirmed in faith, marries, and receives the sacrament of anointing when ill. It is from the parish church that the funeral accompanies the parishioner's body to its last resting place.

If Dominican friars serve a parish, people can expect to hear preaching that is intelligent, based upon sound theology, and enriched by current reading and reflection. Most of the Dominicans in the Western Dominican Province are graduates of the

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, which has an international reputation for academic excellence.

Though Catholic parishes are usually territorial, since 1968 the Western Dominicans have pioneered a different type: a university parish or "Newman Center," based not on boundaries but on a person's relationship to a center of learning. (*See related article*) Most of our newer foundations are of this type.

Please visit our website at [www.opwest.org](http://www.opwest.org) to find a parish while you travel or if you move to a new city throughout the West.

# DOMINICAN NEWMAN CENTERS OF THE WEST

By Fr. Gerald Buckley, O.P. Prior

THE FIRST NEWMAN CENTER WAS FOUNDED at the University of Pennsylvania in 1893 by Thomas L. Harrington who established a society aimed at serving the religious, intellectual, and social needs of Catholic students and faculty. He named it after Cardinal John Henry Newman, who had recently died. Adopting Harrington's idea, Newman Centers began springing up at campuses throughout the country. Originally, the idea was popular with the Church Hierarchy, but eventually it was frowned upon as a possible competitor with Catholic universities. By the 1940's, however, the overwhelming number of Catholics attending secular colleges led to vigorous support for the apostolate.

Our Western Dominican Province first became involved in Newman centers in 1908 when Bishop O'Dea of Seattle invited the Dominicans to form a Catholic center at the University of Washington. The parish of the Blessed Sacrament in Seattle was given to the Dominicans with the special commission of ministering to the student and faculty of the University. Building on the success in Seattle, St. Dominic Church in Los Angeles started a campus outreach to Occidental College.

Starting in the late 1960's, the Western Dominican Province made a commitment to return to one of St. Dominic's goals of having his Dominican friars actively participating in the intellectual life of the universities in Medieval Europe. Over the next 30 years, the Western Dominican Province would accept Newman Center ministries at the University of Oregon, University of Arizona, Arizona State University, University of California at Riverside, University of Utah, Stanford, University of California at San Diego, and University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

Today the friars of the Western Dominican Province minister to over 5,000 students at our 10 Newman Centers. For many students, college is the first time in their lives when they are free to choose or reject the "faith of their parents." In our ever



All Saints Catholic Newman Center in Tempe, Arizona

secularizing society, our friars are providing their students a safe environment where they are free to learn and ask questions about their faith. Many students have shared with us that it is at their Newman Center when they first encountered our Lord, and came to know and love their faith.

Over 2,000 years ago Jesus Christ gave his followers the command; "*Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature*" (Mark 16:15). St. Dominic and Thomas L. Harrington answered our Lord's command by ensuring that the Catholic faith was represented at the universities of Europe and America. Today the friars who minister in our Newman Centers continue this divine ministry by preaching and teaching the Catholic faith to the next generation of Catholics.

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## THE WDP PREACHING BAND

IF ONE ASKED ST. DOMINIC TO SUMMARIZE in three words the vision that motivated him to found the Dominican Order, I am certain that he would respond with the words chosen by St. Thomas Aquinas to state the mission of the Dominicans, "*Contemplata aliis tradere*". "*Having contemplated, give to others the fruit of their contemplation*" — this has been the ideal of Dominicans for 800 years.

The object of Dominican contemplation is Divine Wisdom as revealed in Sacred Scripture and attained by prayer, study and lifelong discipleship of Christ. Teaching and preaching are the modes of this communication. The same Aquinas states that the goal of teaching is to illuminate the mind with truth, while the goal of preaching is the conversion of heart of the hearer by presenting the 'true' as 'good'. Interestingly enough Aquinas, one of the world's greatest teachers, argues that preaching is superior to teaching since it is directed to the whole person while teaching focuses on only part of the person, the intellect.

by Fr. Antoninus Wall, O.P.

Both modes are proper to the Dominican apostolate.

Six members of the Western Dominican Province are involved full time in the apostolic activity of teaching and preaching the Word of God. They go by the title of the Western Dominican Preaching Band. Their teaching activity involves theological courses, catechesis for adults, individual lectures and other methods of communicating the truth of the Catholic Faith. Their preaching entails parish missions and renewal programs, novenas, days of recollection, and retreats for laity, religious and clergy. They produce professionally made DVDs and CDs dealing with biblical and theological subjects. Their apostolic activities include confessional ministry and spiritual direction. An evolving intention is to make greater use of the written word and the Internet. They are open to any and all means of proclaiming the Good News of Christ.

For more information about the Preaching Band visit our website at: <http://www.opwest.org/preaching/>

DEAR FRIENDS,

It is both an honor and a joy to serve the Western Dominican Province as the Director of Philanthropy and Stewardship. Every day I witness the generosity of individuals throughout the Province sharing their time, talent, and treasure in support of the mission of the Dominicans to spread the Word of the Lord. Our benefactors are instrumental in enabling Dominican Brothers and Fathers to serve in parishes, Newman Centers, missions, and special ministries.

As you might imagine, in a 10 state province, there are many needs that can be addressed with your support. Formation of our novices and brothers is always a major priority. Men seeking to enter the priesthood face a long period of discernment, education, and spiritual preparation that takes many years. Annual expenses during this period go for room and board, tuition at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, and living expenses. This investment results in well-educated, well-trained, and well-qualified Dominican priests who bring forth God's Word with intellectual rigor and spiritual certainty.

Another priority for the Province is providing care for those brothers and priests who have labored long in the fields and now are living in retirement. Most reside in the Priory of St. Albert the Great, the spiritual cornerstone for many in the Province. Retirement needs vary for the brothers and priests but includes their room and board, living expenses and medical care. In addition, the Priory, their home along with that of the student brothers, is an older facility in need of upkeep and repair.

The accompanying article about the *Lighting the Way Campaign* for the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology highlights the need to complete a campaign to address the capital needs of this internationally acclaimed center of learning. All the Dominican brothers studying for priesthood as well as lay men and women preparing for leadership roles in the Church and society receive a superior education within its walls. The School represents what is best about the Dominican tradition of teaching and preaching.

Your gifts are received by the Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship and administered according to your wishes. I am available to speak with you at any time to discuss the needs and priorities of the Western Dominican Province. Please feel free to contact me to discuss how you might support the mission of the Dominicans.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Hyland

*Director of Philanthropy and Stewardship*

(510) 658-8722 • tomhyland@opwest.org



## ESTATE PLANNING STRATEGIES

Including the Western Dominican Province in your will or other estate plan ensures your support for the important work of the Dominicans both now and in the future. You can sustain our chief priorities:

- Formation of men entering the Dominican Order
- Spiritual guidance for thousands of families in the western United States
- Retirement for brothers and priests

Consult your attorney or financial advisor to ensure your wishes for support of the mission of the Dominicans of the Western Dominican Province are fulfilled. For further information or to request a copy of *Estate Planning Strategies That Meet Your Needs*, please contact the Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship at (510) 658-8722.

## Workers for the Field

Fr. Steve Maekawa, O.P., Vocations Director

**IN EVERY GENERATION OF THE DOMINICANS'** 800 year history, faithful men have answered God's Call. We are blessed in the Western Province to currently have 24 men in formation for the priesthood.

One of the most effective ways to help men discern their vocation is to have them visit the House of Studies, Saint Albert The Great Priory, in Oakland, CA, the spiritual cornerstone for many in our Province. There they can meet brothers who have recently left a life "in the world" to become friars as well as to witness Dominican common life of prayer, study, and service. This past year, 25 vocations candidates made overnight visits to the House of Studies to discern if God is calling them to a Dominican vocation.

If you are interested in supporting Dominican vocations work, there are three things you can do:

**PRAY** — Jesus tells us to pray for vocations: "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers to his harvest" (Mt 9:38). The faith story of every Dominican attests to the activity of Holy Spirit built upon a foundation of many prayers.

**ENCOURAGE** — Friars often will say that having someone ask them if they thought about becoming a priest or religious had a notable impact on their openness to a vocation.

**DONATE** — Financial resources are needed for travel, vocations materials, and the requirements of the application process.

All of the brothers thank you for your support of the Order of Preachers. This year we are happy to announce that there are several men in the application process for next year's novitiate, which begins in August. For more information about vocations call (510) 596-1821 or email: [vocations@opwest.org](mailto:vocations@opwest.org).

# LIGHTING THE WAY



## PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP

### The Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology

The Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology (DSPT) is a singularly unique institution of higher education preparing men for the priesthood and lay men and women for leadership roles in the Catholic Church and in society.

Founded as the College of St. Albert the Great in 1931 in Oakland, CA, in order to be near to and to share in the intellectual life of the University of California at Berkeley, the College became the first Catholic institution to join the renowned Graduate Theological Union (GTU). In 1978, the College changed its name to the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology to more fully embrace its role as the only theological school in

*The DSPT participates in the only educational system founded upon the Church's preaching mission.*

As a Dominican institution, the DSPT participates in the only educational system founded upon the Church's preaching mission. Both the curriculum and approach to instruction follow the example of St. Thomas Aquinas, who was open to truth in all its forms, drawing upon Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and pre-Christian sources to deepen his understanding of revelation, and to apply it for the sake of others.

Recently the Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education completed its study of the Apostolic Visitation report on the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, and reported finding the School "a generally healthy institution of higher education." Other excerpts from the report include:

*"The Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology adheres to the Church's Magisterium on the priesthood. Moreover, the seminarians noted that the School is superior in teaching this subject vis-a-vis the other Catholic institutions in the Graduate Theological Union."*

*"The Visitation confirmed that the School's academic program is excellent, with the students receiving a substantially complete grounding in dogmatic and moral theology. The faculty is both academically prepared and doctrinally sound."*

*"We were very impressed with the number of high-caliber seminarians attending Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology."*

Members of the faculty are distinguished in their fields. Among them is Fr. Richard Schenk, O.P., one of six theologians recently invited to consult with Pope Benedict XVI prior to the publication of his work on St. Bonaventure. Another is Associate Professor John Berkman, a noted ethicist who advises the Vatican on matters dealing with bio-ethics. Other faculty members include authors, lecturers, and noted teachers. Additional significant facts relevant to DSPT include:

- The School not only prepares men to serve as Dominican priests, but also teaches seminarians for the Salesians, Capuchin Franciscans, Josephites, Augustinians and other orders.
- Alumni, lay and religious, teach in foreign universities such as the Angelicum (Rome), the University of Freiburg (Switzerland) and the École Biblique (Jerusalem) and in universities and seminaries in the U.S., Mexico and Canada. Degrees from DSPT are recognized worldwide for their academic excellence.
- Over 70% of the philosophy courses taught at the GTU are provided by DSPT.
- The student-to-teacher ratio is 5-to-1 thus promoting intense interaction and scholarship.
- Graduates of DSPT include pastors, authors, teachers, artists, business professionals, and practitioners of the fine arts.
- In the spring of 2009, the school has achieved a record high for enrollment applications.

### THE LIGHTING THE WAY CAMPAIGN IS INITIATED

The DSPT operated for many years without its own campus, instead leasing a building and borrowing space from other institutions within the Graduate Theological Union. In 2004 the host school informed the Dominicans that its own need for space required DSPT to seek other arrangements. Providentially, a local synagogue, which moved to a new location, placed its facility up for sale. This facility well suited the needs of DSPT as it was essentially a full campus in close proximity to both the GTU and the University of California at Berkeley. After a renovation of the facilities, operations have continued uninterrupted in a space perfectly suited to the mission of the Dominicans.

The *Lighting the Way Campaign* was initiated to enable DSPT to act quickly to purchase this facility at a site ideally suited for graduate and doctoral level education. Initial support for the *Lighting the Way Campaign* came from foundations supporting

Catholic works and generous benefactors and donors at all levels. Participation in the *Lighting the Way Campaign* is still available to supporters of DSPT and the overall mission of the Western Dominican Province to educate the next generation of church leaders both Dominican and lay.

The DSPT exemplifies the Dominican traditions of educating and training not only priests but also lay men and women who will bring forth God's Word and provide Church leadership with both academic rigor and spiritual certainty. At a time when the Church is experiencing both an increase in the number of men seeking vocations and increased participation by the laity in

Church functions, the role of DSPT is increasingly more valuable and relevant to the future direction of the Catholic Church. 

## HOW YOU CAN HELP CONTINUE THE TRADITION

Individual gifts and multi-year pledges are welcomed and encouraged. To make a gift or pledge, please complete the remittance card in this publication or contact the Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship at (510) 658-8722 or email [development@opwest.org](mailto:development@opwest.org).

To learn more about DSPT, visit its website at [www.dspt.edu](http://www.dspt.edu).

# LIGHTING THE WAY HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

We make every effort to list our esteemed donors correctly. If an error occurs in your listing in the Honor Roll of Donors, please contact the Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship at (510) 658-8722 or [development@opwest.org](mailto:development@opwest.org)

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*I'm looking forward to serving God and His Church in a Newman Center or a parish for a couple of years. After that, I am considering going on for a Ph.D. in Philosophy with a view to teaching and trying to bring the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas to bear on modern philosophical problems."*

**THE JOURNEY TO PRIESTHOOD OF BR. PETER DO  
STARTED HALF WAY AROUND THE WORLD.**

*"My journey began in Vietnam where I was born in 1977. In 1984, my father woke me up at 3 a.m. and took me under the cover of darkness to an awaiting boat at a nearby harbor. I nearly drowned trying to escape the country. But like many "boat people", my father wanted me to have a better future, and to experience freedom from the tyranny of communist rule. For that, he had to risk both our lives - as well as pay a fee equivalent to a life savings, literally in gold, for this dangerous trip to freedom and a better life. We arrived in the United States in 1985 and made our home in Portland, Oregon.*

*It was while in high school that I first seriously considered a calling to the priesthood. I remembered listening to a Maryknoll missionary speaking to my Confirmation class and was struck speechless when he looked at me intently and said slowly: "I know there is one of you in this class that God is calling to be a priest." Shortly after that experience I asked the diocesan vocations director and other priests about the possibility of my becoming a priest. Unfortunately, there was no follow-up and I began to have other interests in life, even though in the back of my mind, I was still entertaining ideas of becoming a priest.*

*I studied at Portland State University, obtaining a BS Degree in Bio-Chemistry in 1999. That year, I began graduate school at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. I attended school there for two years, earning a Masters Degree in Chemistry. In early 2001, I felt a renewed zeal to become a priest and spoke with a Dominican priest in Salt Lake City about this calling. This time, unlike before, there was a remarkably quick response. The very next day, I received an email message from the Vocations Director in Oakland, CA, inviting me to visit the seminary. Today, I stand ready and look forward to continue my journey to serve God's people."*

By answering God's Call, with much hard work, and through the generosity and support of many, Fr. Raphael Mary and Fr. Peter are prepared and on their way to fulfill meaningful lives of service. As their stories demonstrate, God overcomes distance or circumstance when he calls young men to service. Please say a prayer for their success as Dominican priests and also pray for vocations of other men answering God's Call. 🙏



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# LIFE TRANSITIONS

## IN MEMORY

Fr. Tom Kraft, O. P., passed on to his heavenly reward on January 22, 2009. A vigil was held at St. Albert the Great Priory, Oakland, CA on Thursday, January 29, 2009. His funeral Mass was held at St. Dominic Church in Benicia, CA on Friday, January 30th. The "Fr. Thomas Kraft, O.P. Scholarship Fund" has been established in Fr. Kraft's memory to provide support for students in formation. If you are interested in making a donation in his memory, please make checks payable to the Western Dominican Province with the notation Fr. Tom Kraft Burse.



Newly ordained deacons (from left to right): Br. Stephen Maria Lopez, O.P., Br. Christopher Fadok, O.P., and Br. Michael Augustine Amabisco, O.P.

## DIACONATE ORDINATIONS

*Upon ordination to the diaconate our brothers enter into the clerical life and serve the people of God more fully through the ministry of word, sacrament, and works of charity.*

**ORDAINED** to the diaconate at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland, CA. — January 31, 2009.

Br. Michael Augustine Amabisco, O. P.  
Br. Stephen Maria Lopez, O. P.  
Br. Christopher Fadok, O. P.  
Br. John Marie Bingham, O. P.

**ORDAINED** to the diaconate at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC — January 10, 2009.

Br. Isaiah Molano, O. P.

## SOLEMN VOWS

*Upon taking solemn vows, our brothers commit themselves for life to be witnesses to the world of the transforming power of Jesus Christ through the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.*

**ENTERED** into solemn vows at St. Albert Priory in Oakland, CA. — May 23, 2009

Brother Boniface Willard, O. P.  
Brother Mark Francis Manzano, O. P.

## DSPT BISHOP ALEMANY AWARD RECIPIENTS

On April 18, 2009, Fr. Vincent Lopez, O.P., Fr. Martin de Porres Walsh, O. P., and Fr. Thomas Hayes, O. P. were awarded the Bishop Alemany award for their years of service to God's People around the Western Dominican Province. The award is one of the highest honors given by the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology to both lay and Dominican men and women, who have demonstrated considerable commitment to the Dominican Mission.

## ANNIVERSARIES

We offer our prayerful congratulations to the Dominican friars listed below on reaching milestones in their lives of service as brothers and priests.

### 50 YEAR JUBILEE

Fr. Thomas Hayes, O. P.  
Fr. Paul Scanlon, O. P.  
Fr. Paul Johnson, O. P.  
Fr. Terence John Reilly, O. P.  
Br. Gregory Ramon Lira, O. P.

### 40 YEARS

Fr. Cassian Lewinski, O. P.  
Fr. Martin de Porres Walsh, O. P.

### 30 YEARS

Fr. LaSalle Sean Hallissey, O. P.  
Fr. Michael Bernard Sweeney, O. P.

### 20 YEARS

Fr. Gregory Tatum, O. P.

## Dominican Faculty Brings a Fresh Perspective on St. Thomas Aquinas

**FR. BRYAN KROMHOLTZ, O.P.**, who joined the faculty of DSPT this past Fall, recently completed his doctoral studies in theology at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, publicly defending his dissertation on October 22, 2008. The professors of the jury included fellow Western Dominican friars Fr. Richard Schenk, O.P., professor of theology and philosophy at DSPT, and Fr. Michael Sherwin, O.P., an alumnus and former professor at DSPT, now professor of moral theology at Fribourg. Fr. Bryan's dissertation (written in English) and defense (conducted in French) earned him the grade of *insigni cum laude*—the second-highest in the Swiss system.

The dissertation, entitled *On the Last Day: The Time of the Resurrection of the Dead according to Thomas Aquinas*, explains that St. Thomas sees the resurrection as an event that occurs for everyone at the same time, at the end of the world, when Christ

comes in glory. Fr. Bryan's work shows that the Angelic Doctor's teaching highlights the theological significance of human persons' connections with one another, with the rest of creation, and with Jesus Christ, who has promised that He will raise his faithful "on the last day." The dissertation shows how Thomas' teaching can aid theological reflection on the resurrection for our own day.

Fr. Bryan hopes that his own teaching in systematic theology at DSPT will help today's students to incorporate the insights of St. Thomas and the Catholic tradition into their own studies. He offers courses on Theological Anthropology, Method and Structure of Theology, and the Sacraments.

To see pictures of Fr. Kromholtz's defense of his dissertation visit: <http://opwest.org/Archive/2008/20081101/phpslideshow.php>



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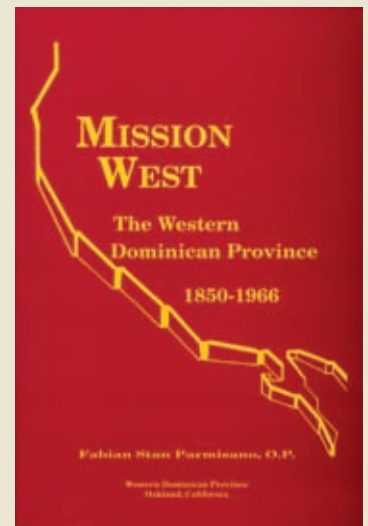


## Mission West, The Western Dominican Province 1850–1966

The history of the Dominicans in the western United States is intertwined with the development, both spiritual and historic, of the emerging communities and states on the western edge of the continent. Fr. Fabian Stan Parmisano, O. P., has written a fascinating 455 page account of the Dominicans and their contributions to this tale, *Read Mission West, The Western Dominican Province 1850–1966*.

A limited number of second edition copies are available for a suggested contribution of \$20 or more to cover the cost of the book and shipping and handling.

To receive your copy, send your contribution to: Western Dominican Province  
Mission West  
5877 Birch Court  
Oakland, CA 94618-1627



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