



# MISSION WEST

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

## PREACHERS FOR ALL SEASONS

You help us bring truth to the world

- ✦ The Next Step: First Vows
- ✦ Five More Join the Dominicans
- ✦ Fr. Gerald: Joyful and Bold
- ✦ The End of the Year and You





## THE QUOTABLE DOMINICAN

### Bl. John of Vercelli, O.P.

1205-1283

**“He who grows careless in little things, falls little by little. He who does not push himself to make progress, goes backward.”**

—Taken from a letter to his brother Dominicans.

Blessed John was the Master General of the Order of Preachers from 1264–1283, and founder of the Holy Name Society, the international association dedicated to honoring the Most Holy Name of Jesus.

**The feast of the Holy Name of Jesus, the titular feast of the Western Dominican Province, is celebrated on January 3.**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Though sometimes debated, Blessed Henry Suso, O.P., is often credited with giving us the Christmas carol *In dulci jubilo*, the inspiration for *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*.

According to *The Life of Blessed Henry Suso*, he had a vision of angels dancing while singing the hymn. Their song was so sweet, that he forgot all his sufferings and joined the angels in dancing and praising God.

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

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Photo Credits: Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P., Br. Joseph Marie Dinh, O.P., Br. Michael James Rivera, O.P., Katie Edson, Felicia Summerfield



## from the vicar provincial for advancement



Dear Friend of St. Dominic,

According to the American Retail Federation, Americans plan to spend about \$678 billion this Christmas. Ironically, as much as the country has forgotten about Christ, it still seems to robustly celebrate His birth. It's here then that we have an opportunity.

For Christians, one of the best Christmas gifts we can give is to remind others about the most precious gift of all, Jesus Christ—God becoming man and dwelling among us.

All of us, by virtue of our baptism, are called to announce the Good News of Jesus Christ. Two ways to re-introduce the person of Jesus Christ to our fallen away brothers and sisters is: to invite them to Christmas Mass, or to ask people if you could pray grace before the Christmas meal. You could also consider reading the biblical narrative of Jesus' birth—just like in the *Charlie Brown Christmas Special*.

Just as God gave us Himself in love, we are called to give in a way that shows our love for others. There's nothing inherently wrong with spending money on Christmas gifts, but when we fail to recognize the inspiration for our gift-giving (love of God and neighbor), then we forget “the reason for the season,” as they say. **Remember, the most precious gift we can give to another is the Light of Faith.**

And speaking of gifts, God continues to bless the Order of Preachers with the gift of new vocations. Presently, we have over 30 men in formation; the most we've had in over a decade. And we're on pace to have over 250 men approach us this year with interest in joining the Western Dominican Province.

Responding to this gift from God would be impossible without you. Your gifts help us live out our mission to preach the Gospel to all the nations.

In the midst of our dark world, let us turn again to the Light of Christ and pray that we might bring that Light to others, so they might become aware of the most astonishing gift of all—the Word made flesh.

In Christ and St. Dominic,

Very Rev. Fr. James Junípero Moore, O.P.  
*Vicar Provincial for Advancement*

**Cover Photo:** Always ready to preach in any condition, Fr. Steven Maekawa, O.P., Fr. Christopher Brannan, O.P., and Fr. Mark Francis Manzano, O.P., stand ready to clear snow from in front of Our Lady's statue at Holy Family Cathedral in Anchorage, Alaska, which the Dominicans have staffed since 1974. 🕯️ Your generosity allows the friars to serve in the missions of the Alaskan wilderness and the most distant corners of the nation.

# Taking the Next Step

Your prayers supported our brothers as they made their First Vows

Following the intense prayer and discernment of the Novitiate, Dominican brothers make their First Profession of Vows, declaring a year (or two) of obedience in the Order, and officially adding “O.P.” to their name. It’s a moving and joyous occasion—one that’s made possible through God’s grace and your financial support.

Br. Paschal Strader, O.P., reflects on what making his First Profession meant to him:

I had been looking forward to vows since I witnessed brothers making their first vows a year before. It made me very happy to be formally incorporated into the Order (and to add O.P. to my name)!

Taking vows was an act of trust, putting my life into the hands of the brothers, trusting not just the current state of the Order, but whatever it will be in future years. In preparation, our Novice Master imparted to us how the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience are a gift of self; giving up our rights to personal property, marriage, and self-determination, out of love for God.

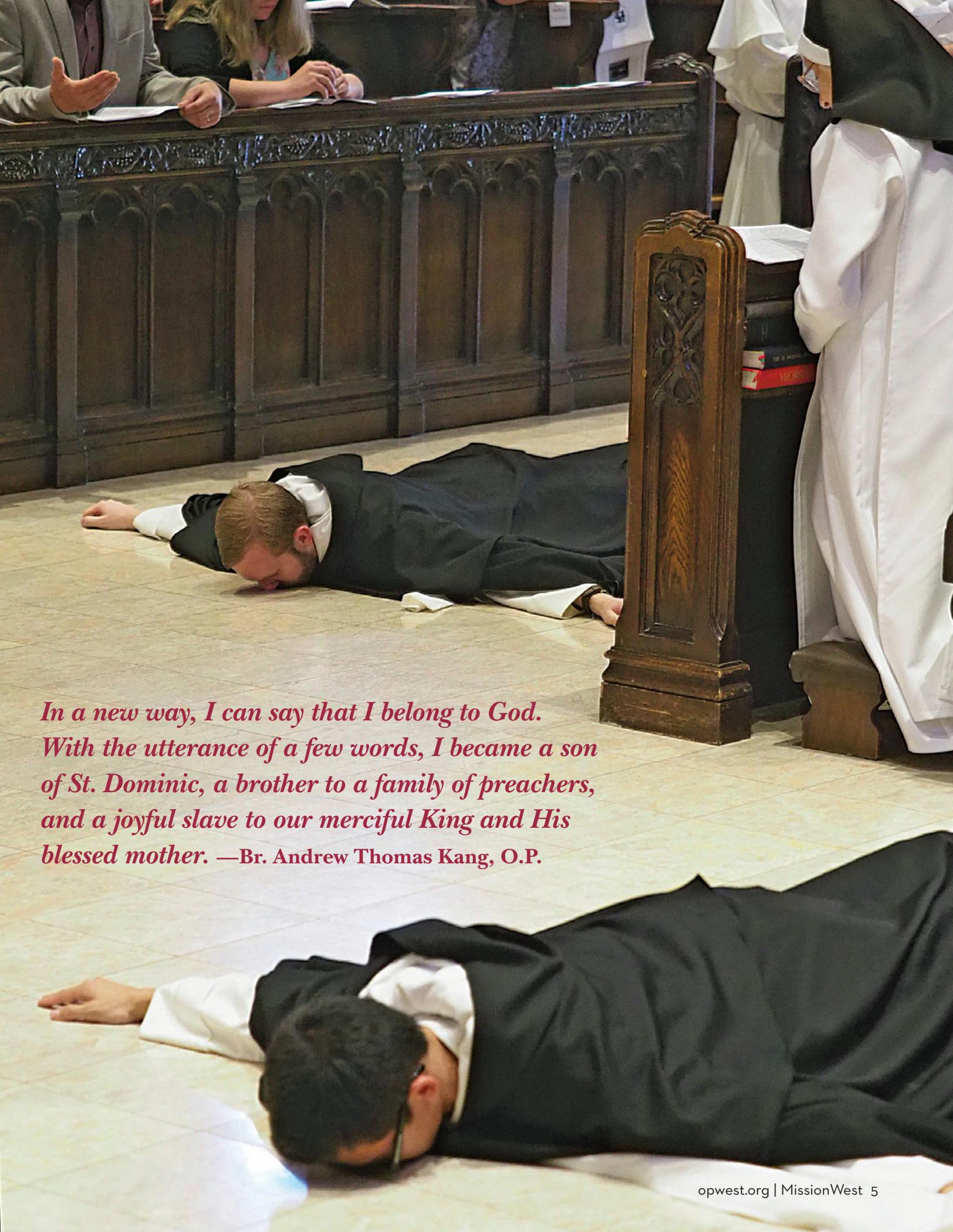
Br. Athanasius Thompson, O.P., Br. John Winkowitsch, O.P., Fr. Mark Padrez, O.P., Br. Paschal Strader, O.P., Br. Paul Maria Müllner, O.P., and Br. Andrew Thomas Kang, O.P., pose together after First Vows. Thank you for being one of the faithful friends who offer prayers and financial gifts to make the brothers’ formation possible!



First Vows is a time of celebration for the brothers, pictured here with their family and friends.

Watch Br. John’s moving story as he reflects on 2017 First Vows at [opwest.org/videos](http://opwest.org/videos)





*In a new way, I can say that I belong to God.  
With the utterance of a few words, I became a son  
of St. Dominic, a brother to a family of preachers,  
and a joyful slave to our merciful King and His  
blessed mother. —Br. Andrew Thomas Kang, O.P.*

# You Helped Five More Men Join the Dominicans

We have more men in formation than we've had in over a decade. Take a moment to learn about our new Novices and see the impact your support is having in their lives.

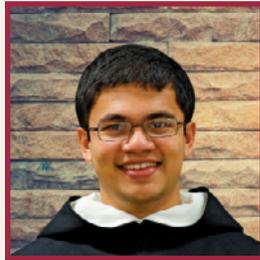
At the end of August, five men received the habit of the Order of Preachers and began their first year of formation as Novices. Without your help, these men would not have the spiritual or temporal support they need to give their lives to Christ.

In a world that often derides religious life, they've chosen to live radically for God. Meet our new brothers and see how your support enables them to put their gifts at the service of the Lord.



**Br. Elias Guadalupe Ford**

Brother Elias is from San Francisco, California. He has a B.A. in Music with a minor in Philosophy from Ave Maria University. In addition to playing the piano and the organ, he enjoys singing and watching baseball. He admires Saint Jose Maria Robles Hurtado, a Mexican priest martyred during the Cristero War, who promoted greater reverence for Our Lady of Guadalupe. Br. Elias joined the Dominicans because he wants to preach, and recognizes that he needs the brothers to help him.



**Br. Antony Augustine Cherian**

Brother Antony is from Kansas City, Missouri, but was born in India. He has a B.A. in Philosophy and Computer Science with a minor in Theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville. He enjoys reading, photography and playing tennis. Inspired by the writings of Saint Augustine of Hippo, he takes seriously Christ's commission in Matthew 28:19-20. "I knew that the fraternal life would be the way God would form me in holiness, and the singular focus on preaching is a very direct way of living Jesus' command to spread the Gospel."



**Br. Nathaniel Maria Mayne**

Brother Nathaniel Maria is from Livermore, California. He has a B.M. in Music Performance from San Diego State University. He started playing the double bass when he was 11, and enjoys hiking and the great outdoors. One of his favorite Scripture passages is John 1:47, in which Nathaniel meets Jesus and becomes one of his disciples. He looks to Saint John Paul II as a role model, and joined the Dominicans because of our commitment to the intellectual tradition of the Church, the common life, and the choral chanting of the Divine Office.



**Br. John Peter Anderson**

Brother John Peter is from Tracy, California. He has a B.A. in Liberal Arts from Thomas Aquinas College. He studied taekwon-do, and enjoys cooking, hiking and playing the piano. He joined the Dominicans because he wants to spend his life "proclaiming truth to a world that's steeped in confusion." Learning to rely on God's providence, he takes to heart Christ's words to Saint Peter in Matthew 14:31, "Oh you of little faith, why did you doubt?"



**Br. Matthew Wanner**

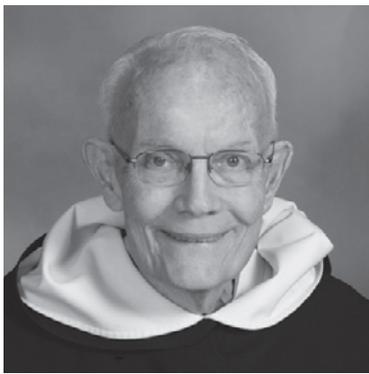
Brother Matthew was born in Miles City, Montana, but was raised in North Dakota. He has a B.A. in Philosophy and Catholic Studies from the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. He likes reading philosophy, theology and poetry, and enjoys cycling, fishing and skiing. He has a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the greatest of contemplatives, and he joined the Order of Preachers to follow in the footsteps of Saint Dominic and Saint Thomas Aquinas, contemplative preachers inflamed with the Holy Spirit.

## Fr. Gerald: A Joyful Dominican Until Death

**F**r. Gerald, 86, passed away on August 15, 2017, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He had been a faithful servant of the Lord, and devoted Dominican for 65 years.

Born in 1931, Fr. Gerald spent his earliest years in Los Angeles in the lively and loving embrace of his Irish forebears. He later moved to the Bay Area, attended Serra High School and Bellarmine Preparatory before advancing to Santa Clara University.

Fr. Gerald received the habit on August 14, 1951 in Ross, CA, professed his first vows on August 15, 1952, and solemn vows on August 15, 1955. He continued his studies at St. Albert's in Walberberg, Germany and was later ordained to the priesthood



Fr. Gerald Albert Buckley, O.P.  
1931-2017

at the historic Cologne Cathedral on July 25, 1957. After ordination, he studied in Rome at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum).

During his life as a Dominican, Fr. Gerald taught, preached, and governed with a light-hearted spirit and a passion for evangelization. He taught at Dominican University in San Rafael and at St. Mary's College of California in Moraga. He

also served in campus ministries, parishes and as superior in a number of communities around the Province.

Fr. Gerald brought the joy of the Gospel to his preaching in his own engaging and inimitable way. Many souls were touched by his ministry. He exemplified the "joyful friar"—a true son of St. Dominic. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

PLEASE VISIT [opwest.org/frgeraldbuckleymemorial](https://opwest.org/frgeraldbuckleymemorial)  
TO MAKE A GIFT IN MEMORY OF FR. GERALD.

### To Our Anonymous Friend

For the past three years, you have made very generous gifts to the friars. We know you wish to remain anonymous, and we honor and respect your wishes fully.

Whoever you are, wherever you are, know that all of us around the Western Dominican Province are praying for you, and filled with deep gratitude for what you've done for us. For we trust that, "our Father who sees in secret will repay you."—Matthew 6:4



Want to help people love God and build up the Church? Please consider a gift to the Dominicans before December 31.

## End of Year Giving Opportunities

December 31 is just around the corner! Whether you're trying to meet the tax deadline, or looking to make a special Christmas or end-of-year gift to the Dominicans, we have a variety of opportunities for you to help.

### IRA Charitable Rollover

Visit [opwest.org/ira](https://opwest.org/ira)

Avoid taxes and fulfill the IRS' Annual Required Minimum Distribution (70½) by transferring up to \$100,000 to the Dominicans. Contact your plan administrator to make the request.

### Make a One-Time Gift

Give securely at [opwest.org/give](https://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](https://opwest.org/stock) or call (510) 658-8722

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

### Join the 1216 Society

Sign-up at [opwest.org/1216](https://opwest.org/1216)

Join nearly 250 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. Members are honored in the cloister garden of St. Albert the Great Priory.

### Include the Dominicans in Your Estate Plans

Learn more at [opwest.org/plannedgiving](https://opwest.org/plannedgiving)

If you're working on your will, trust or retirement accounts, please consider remembering the Dominicans in your plans. Your plan advisor can easily help you include the Western Dominican Province as a full or partial beneficiary of your estate. Then let us know at [development@opwest.org](mailto:development@opwest.org) or (510) 658-8722, so we can enroll you in the St. Dominic Legacy Society.

## A Profile in Generosity: Felicia Summerfield

### A Love for Truth and the Children of St. Dominic

#### How did you first get connected to the Dominicans?

It was through my mother, of course. Our family is Catholic because of the Dominicans. My mother's family moved to Benicia, California, from Texas. They were Methodists, but could not find a church nearby. Even though she was a child at the time, my mother insisted on finding a place of worship for the family. There were two choices: St. Dominic's and a Baptist church.



Felicia (left) is active at Holy Rosary, the Dominican parish in Portland, Oregon. Here she poses with her sister, Sheila, and friends Mary and Cecelia (l to r) from the Dominican Third Order.

Most of Mom's school friends went to Catechism at St. Dominic's, so she tried there first. The sisters were kind and invited my mother and aunt to attend classes regularly. The rest is history. My aunt and mother were received into the Church the following year. When I relocated to Portland for work, it was my mother who found Holy Rosary. She encouraged me to visit "this great Dominican church near downtown Portland." I was hooked after my first Mass.

#### What do you appreciate most about the Dominican presence in your life?

I value the orthodoxy of Dominican preaching. Like many people who attended Catholic school in a post-Vatican II culture, I was not well catechized. This led to me leaving the Church after high

school and staying away for many years. Once I returned to the Church, I wanted to know my faith. The friars at Holy Rosary provided the teaching and spiritual direction I needed to grow spiritually.

#### Why do you choose to give to the Dominicans?

That's easy. I want more Dominican priests and religious! I believe in the particular charism of the Dominicans and have a great love for St. Dominic and his children.

#### What do the Dominicans offer that you believe is of the most value to society today?

I think the greatest gift that Dominicans bring to this relativistic society is unswerving orthodoxy. They explain Catholic Tradition and the Magisterium in a very accessible way.

#### What do you enjoy most about the community of friars and people at Holy Rosary in Portland?

I love Holy Rosary because of its thriving parish life. The friars lead us in our sacramental lives and the lay folks have created wonderful programs that serve the community. Depending on your interests, you can participate in on-going spiritual education, get involved with feeding the poor, join a book club, or the Lay Dominicans, to name a few.



The Dominicans helped bring Felicia's family into the Church, and have strengthened her faith. Here she poses with friars from Holy Rosary, Br. Joseph (above) and Fr. Vincent (below)



## Rosary Sunday

DOMINICAN STUDENT APPEAL



On behalf of the 31 Dominican Student Brothers and Novices, and all the friars of our province, thank you for the sacrifices you've made during our Rosary Sunday: Dominican Student Appeal. Your prayers, friendship and financial support is deeply appreciated.