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Growing a Parish: An Interview with Jesson Mata Director of Liturgy and Music - Blessed Sacrament Parish



“All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.” So writes Leo Tolstoy at the beginning of his masterwork, Anna Karenina. If a parish is anything like a family we really ought to take this insight to heart. How are growing, dynamic parishes thriving? What makes them such special, even happy places? In an interview with Jesson Mata, Director of Liturgy and Music at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Seattle, he explains it this way, “Quite simply, thriving parishes are attractive!” The attraction may take many forms, but every attractive community is similar in that each takes seriously the core principles which direct its mission. The following essay is an extrapolation from my interview with Jesson on how to grow a parish. - ed.

Core Principles

What are the core principles of a Dominican parish? At Blessed Sacrament Church in Seattle, we have identified them as

- Preaching and the Apostolate: The Sacraments
- Prayer: Liturgy and Music
- Dominican Identity: Study, Faith Formation and Evangelization
- Doing Good: Welcoming, Community, Outreach, and Justice
- Beauty: Art, Gardens, Architecture

We believe that these are the fundamental principles which drive our Catholic community and make us an attractive, destination parish. Perhaps it has always been so, **but an intentional effort was made in the early 1990’s** - when the Catherine of Sienna Institute began here - to promote collaboration between the clergy and laity, and to form an engaged congregation that is ready to be sent to preach the Gospel message of love to the world. We take seriously the direction in the *Acta*, from the Dominican Chapter of Caleruega [Chapter 2; 37], to be the kind of parish that is “a basis of new evangelization”; and we have made great strides to enhance the core principles which enable us to become a Center of Faith Formation and Evangelization.

The Sinking Ship Scenario

“No one wants to join a sinking ship,” Jesson states. “You know that a ship is sinking when there is no leadership or there is a mutiny going on.” While diversity must be respected, cooperation and respect between diverse groups must also be mandated by the parish leadership. In order for divergent groups to co-exist, they need to be taught

MISSIONWEST

ISSUE 9 Fall 2013

Mission West is a publication of the Western Dominican Province. For the past 160 years, **the Western Dominicans have preached God's** truth and served and comforted His people throughout a ten state region in the American West, Mexico, and at various missions around the world.

Subscriptions to Mission West are free. Please visit our website at opwest.org, or contact the Western Dominican Province Development Office for more information, at 510-658-8722 or development@opwest.org.

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From the Provincial ...

Dear Friends,

Recently, as I was thumbing through the Province Directory looking for a particular email address, I came across the list of our ministries and communities throughout the Province. I paged through the list slowly and was filled with gratitude for all the ministries we have undertaken, and all the work we are able to do. Then I came upon the list of novices and student brothers who are in initial formation, and again I was struck with appreciation for the blessings of our vocations. Yet none of this would be possible without our friends and benefactors who make our life and work possible.



It is important for you, our friends who support and pray for us, to know how vital you are to our ministries and communities. Without **you we could not possibly minister and preach God's Word.** If we are indeed effective it is because you trust us enough to give us your treasure and sustain us with your prayers. Behind every successful ministry we have a community of friends and benefactors who, in every respect, are part and parcel of the ministry we provide.

As a case in point, we have chosen to highlight one particular ministry in this issue of Mission West. We do this to showcase the kind of work that is being accomplished throughout the Province, and have chosen Blessed Sacrament Parish in Seattle as our example. The next issue of Mission West will highlight another wonderful ministry and the work that is undertaken there, so that we might illustrate for you, in concrete ways, the work of the People of God as they respond to the message of Jesus and are formed by the Dominican presence in their lives.

In great measure you, our friends and benefactors who support us financially and spiritually, have made the success of our ministries possible. The faithfulness and accomplishments that we have enjoyed throughout the years is a reflection of the faithfulness and support that you have given us!

Please know that you are in my daily prayers, especially at Mass, and that I am truly grateful for your generosity, but especially for your presence in our ministries, your collaboration in our work, and your encouragement on this shared journey of hope.

Always,

Fr. Mark Padrez

From the Development Director...

Dear Friends of the Western Dominican Province,


On behalf of the friars of the Province, I want to thank you for your support of the Western Dominicans through the Mission West Campaign. Throughout the West, eighteen parishes and campus ministries have united to strengthen the short and long-term needs of the Province, giving us a strong, sustainable foundation for the future.

Through the Mission West Campaign, you have helped us raise over one million dollars, investing in the education and formation of twenty-three new Dominicans, reducing the debt on the DSPT building purchase and renovation, and helping us care for the elderly and infirm, friars who continue to offer their prayers for the sake of you, our benefactors. The gifts you have made to our Rosary Sunday Appeal exceeded \$140,000 this year, going well beyond our expectations and helping us meet our most immediate needs. Together, you have helped our Dominican Province share the Gospel with over 40,000 individuals through parishes, university ministries, regional and international preaching and teaching, and the work of the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology (DSPT).

The direction of the Mission West Campaign will change in the months ahead, as we focus on the greatest needs of the Province and combine our campaign efforts with the Rosary Sunday Appeal. This will allow the Development Office to address the repayment of the loan for the DSPT facilities, and plan for the long-term future of the Western Province. You will be learning more about these efforts in future mailings, and from your Dominican leadership on Rosary Sunday.

As we discern how to be most effective in preaching the Gospel of Christ in the 21st century, we look to your support and prayers, hoping you know how deeply grateful we are. May you and your loved ones enjoy the abundance of God's love and blessings.

Sincerely in Christ,


Fr. Daniel Syverstad, OP
Director of Development



Welcoming Christopher Hanzeli, Director of Institutional Advancement, to the Western Province Development Office



For the past six years, Chris Hanzeli has been the Director of Advancement for the Catholic Newman Center at the University of Washington, a ministry of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Seattle. In his role he helped to transform the Newman Center by creating a comprehensive fundraising infrastructure for the ministry. In so doing, he developed new online giving, database, direct mail, e-solicitation, special event, major gift, and constituent communication systems.

Serving at the Newman Center was a particularly meaningful job for Chris. The ministry not only helped him rediscover his Catholic faith while attending college, but he also met his future wife, Michele, at the Center.

Before entering fundraising, Chris worked in politics as a spokesperson and deputy communications director, and then later as one of the co-founders of a small healthcare software company. As of July 1, he began his new position within the Western Dominican Province as the Director of Institutional Advancement.

Born and raised in Seattle, Chris graduated from the University of Washington in 2004 with a degree in Communications. He volunteers with a number of local charities, and currently serves on the advisory board of the Catholic Professionals of Seattle and as Chair of the CCMA Development Institute. He is also a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), the Northwest Development Officers Association (NDOA), and is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE).

Chris is currently completing his master's degree in Philanthropy and Development from St. Mary's University of Minnesota, and lives in Seattle with his wife, Michele, and their three young sons: Daniel, Matthew, and Aaron.

Growing a Parish - Continued from front page...

how to respect other views, to argue effectively and with charity, and to always seek the truth. This requires education and pastoral care, but also a willingness to assert that destructive behavior will simply not be tolerated. Parish leadership should spend 100% of its time on the mission of the parish, but often spends most of its time dealing with the small minority who try to bully others into accepting their views at every turn. This parish poison is not attractive to the majority of parishioners, and it is certainly not going to be attractive to newcomers.

Leadership that Cares

Leadership must focus on the core principles of its ministry and should try to enhance these principles with special care. A community that actually *cares* about each principle will shine with greater attraction. If there is a need, look for people who actually care about that need, and they will naturally build up a ministry. This then becomes an organic process, not an imposition of created programs that are thought to be necessary for no other reason than that they have always existed. Who attends the events and responds with enthusiasm? These are the caring ministers that will build up that ministry.

Preaching and the Apostolate: The Sacraments



The Church is where people go to receive the sacraments. For many, it is the only time they will come in contact with the Catholic Church, especially for those who have been away from the Church, for any number of reasons, and have returned to attend a friend's wedding, baptism, funeral, or some other religious event. This is when leadership must act with considerable care to welcome the stranger in their midst and provide a beautiful, spiritual experience. Many who return are seeking to be married in the Church. A vibrant and welcoming engagement program should be developed and enthusiastically supported, so that young couples remain in the parish where they were wed. These young couples become young families, and nothing grows a parish faster than young families!

Prayer: Liturgy and Music



Prayer and devotion are essential to the religious congregation; and in a special way, the liturgy - which is the prayer of the people - is a celebration of shared faith and worship. Our prayer should be a beautiful act of worship every time we pray. Our liturgies, whether elaborate or simple, ought to be an expression of

praise for our Creator. Our creative act of prayer should give glory to God. Beautiful music (and we have a tremendous tradition to draw from) lends itself to beautiful worship. The care that each singer and musician puts into their musical expression vibrates throughout the congregation, and resonates in the hearts of those who worship at Mass. Careful decoration and presentation at the sanctuary is another way of showing deliberate, attentive care in the way we worship.

Unique Dominican Identity:

Study, Faith Formation and Evangelization

Parishioners should know that they share in a special identity, which will compel them to be good stewards and invest their resources back into the community they love. When a community gives back to itself, it will stay vibrant. As a Dominican parish, we share in a unique identity, and the charisms of the Order provide a unique way of viewing and engaging the world.

A Dominican parish should be one that is committed to forming the faith of its members and spreading the Gospel through effective evangelization. We should offer classes that present the faith at its most basic, as well as at its most complex levels, so that our parishioners will be prepared



to engage the world. We might also express our Dominican identity through our music and liturgies (the Dominican Rite), celebrating Dominican saint feast days, hosting guest speakers from the Province, supporting an active, visible and engaged Dominican laity, and promoting the charisms of the Dominican Order in our parishioners.

Continued on next page ...

Doing Good: Welcoming, Community, Outreach, and Justice

A parish is a community which enjoys a shared faith, shared identity, and shared values. It should be welcoming, friendly, familiar, good, and caring. One of the principal ways you can tell the health of a parish is how well it cares for its elderly, its sick and its homebound. As Jesus taught us, we should minister to those most vulnerable in society. We ought to defend the rights of all people, especially the unborn and the disenfranchised. We should visit those in prison and minister to those trapped in poverty. Most Catholics are steeped in this awareness, so it only takes direction and a little hand-holding to help parishioners bridge the gap from *being* good to *doing* good. Once this happens, a very unique education takes place. What is it like to see the world from the eyes of someone in need? Social advocacy for justice is often a natural next step.

Beauty: Art, Gardens and Architecture

When the grounds of the church are unkempt and weedy, or when the church itself is dirty and disheveled, then it is clear to the outside observer that no one really cares about the place. Forming a gardening committee which encourages members to till a small section of the grounds with a sense of ownership and care, enlisting volunteers to decorate the sanctuary for holy days, or creating a planning and facilities committee devoted to the stewardship of the church building itself, signals to those attending that we are grateful for our place of worship.



Conclusion

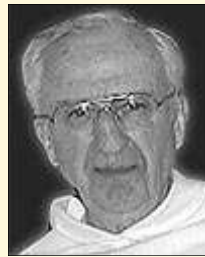
When parishioners are excited about their faith, they will want to share it with others. Today, this is often done in the social networking world of modern technology (Facebook, Twitter) and the internet. It is wise to learn this new technology, embrace it, use it, and Godspeed!



Jesson Mata

Our Aging Friars

By Fr. Reginald Martin, OP



FR. PAUL AQUINAS DUFFNER IS THE ELDEST MEMBER of the Western Dominicans. He is also one of the few to have served at the northern and southern limits of the Western Province's ministries. "It would be hard to imagine a greater contrast," he laughs, as he talks about the snow that greeted him at Holy Family Parish, in Anchorage, Alaska, and the tropical jungles that were his home for the eight years he served as a missionary in Chiapas, the southernmost state of Mexico.

Fr. Duffner's years in Mexico were very happy. "The native people were so open to whatever you were able to give them. I loved my time there, and I have missed it a lot. I would have liked to stay, but I simply could not agree with the Liberation Theology that was becoming more and more popular, so I asked to come home."

What he returned to was a ministry he had undertaken shortly after his ordination in 1935: promoting devotion to the Rosary. "I was assigned to St. Dominic Parish, in San Francisco, and we had a number of small, individual societies and groups focused on the Rosary," Fr. Duffner recalls. "I thought, 'why not bring them together and write some sort of common bulletin for them to meditate on?'"

What Fr. Duffner could not have foreseen was the success of his venture. The groups united under the banner of the Rosary Confraternity and "The Rosary Bulletin" became their meditation tool. In 1975, when Fr. Duffner returned from Mexico to assume the reins as pastor at Holy Rosary Parish, in Portland Oregon, he joined forces with Fr. Thomas Feucht, who had six years before begun publishing *Light and Life: Theology for the Laity*. The result is a newsletter that is sent around the globe, and whose readers make a significant contribution to the Province's students and retired members.

Last year, when North American Dominican leaders of the Rosary devotion met at St. Albert Priory, together with the Dominican Order's director from Rome, all were astounded at the Western Province's nearly eighty-year history of careful, increasingly organized and developed efforts to promote devotion to the Rosary. Thanks to Fr. Duffner, the Western Province's results are unique, but what is perhaps more impressive is Fr. Duffner's ability to accomplish this while working as secretary to the Provincial, serving as pastor and overseeing a major building project, and serving for sixteen years (1945–1956, 1960–1966) as the Western Province's novice master. This latter is the ministry for which Fr. Duffner is best known among his Dominican brothers, but it is one he himself, shrugs off. "I think I enjoyed working with the natives in Mexico more," he says, "but there were some real similarities. The young men who come to us are looking for something, and it is a real honor to be with them at the beginning of their search, and to share what one's learned through prayer and one's own experience in the religious life."

VERITAS

Small Groups Program Transforms UW Newman Center

Fr. Lukasz Misko, OP, Associate Director of the Newman Center at the UW

“THE WORD *VERITAS* MEANS TRUTH in Latin. Aren’t we all searching for truth? **Why walk that journey alone?** That’s the invitation the Catholic community at the University of Washington received when school resumed in the spring of 2013. Since then, over 120 students and young adults have become involved with this game-changing program.

“Small groups provide you with a way to engage your brothers and sisters in Christ, and to learn what it really means to be a well-formed Catholic in the world today,” says Matt Leen, UW senior and one of the *Veritas* leaders.

Thanks to generous Newman Center donors, the idea of offering this new program to the community came when Matt and three fellow students received financial support to attend the FOCUS Ministry conference in Florida last December. The experience of 6,000 young Catholics praying together and sharing their faith journey encouraged the Seattle group to bring some of that enthusiasm to their own city. And the testimony of FOCUS missionaries leading Bible studies and evangelizing on eighty-three university campuses across the United States inspired these students to use the same small-group format that has proven to be so effective. It also helped address a growing challenge to the expanding Newman Center: How to keep the ministry personal and intimate for students while the Newman population continued to grow.

Intense preparations brought together a vibrant group of Newman leaders who, under the guidance of the Newman Center’s Director, Fr. Jordan Bradshaw, OP, designed *Veritas*. Rooted in the truth-seeking charism of the Dominican Order, *Veritas* is a tight-knit setting that provides the students with an intimate community which enables them to grow and flourish in their faith,

through fellowship and intentional discipleship. Reaching out to both current Newmanites and UW Catholics who were not yet active in the community, the program offered undergraduate weekly Bible studies in a group of five to eight students, as well as large gatherings featuring Adoration, Praise and Worship, presentations, socializing, and of course, good food!

The enthusiasm spread quickly and inspired the Newman community of graduate students and young professionals to join the project. As their coordinator and Assistant Director at the Newman Center, I was able to foster their efforts in creating a number of interest-based groups. These small communities put to work the unique talents of their members who composed their own curricula as they went along, and as the group dynamic took shape. As a result, they developed men’s and women’s groups which focused on relationships and how God is calling each person to live out their faith in the context of gender; a “Saints and Spirituality” group which studies the writings of diverse saints; and a “Books and Beers” group which gathers on Friday nights as an informal book club, discussing the issues of philosophy and theology from within the context of our own society.



Fr. Jordan Bradshaw, OP, and Newmanites



Continued on next page ...

“Small groups [*Veritas*] is one of the most wonderful programs I’ve ever been involved in,” says UW graduate and former Newman Peer Minister, Mikaela Hertel. “I thought leading it would be a challenge. What if my group didn’t like me? What if they didn’t want to talk about their faith? Once I got over all the ‘what ifs,’ I found that the students in my small groups were ready and excited to grow and learn, and ready to have a safe and comfortable place to do so among their peers.”

Validated by its rapid growth, and with plans to continue to expand the *Veritas* program this coming school year, the Newman Center in Seattle has seen how hungry young people are for an authentic education in the Catholic faith, and how excited they become when they can share that passion with their friends.

For more information on the Catholic Newman Center at the University of Washington and its *Veritas* program, we invite you to visit our web page at uwnewman.org.



The Catholic Newman Center at the University of Washington is a ministry of Blessed Sacrament Parish.



Students and Friars at St. Dominic School, Benicia, California

were encouraged to wear non-school-uniform blue and white clothing as school supporters or black and white clothing as Dominican supporters; interspersed throughout the crowd, of course, were those who judiciously wore blue and black clothing! It was a very exciting forty-five minutes, and each team held their own, but ultimately the Friars were victorious! The photo that I have attached shows the group at the end of the contest, with the cheerleaders serving as scorekeepers. I am happy to report that I am sending \$650 via snail mail to the Mission West Campaign for Dominican Friars, the results of this wonderful community-building day. We are so very grateful for the Dominican presence on campus and at school events, and it is our pleasure to offer this gift to your campaign.

*Be blessed,
Teri Cullen, Principal
St. Dominic School, Benicia*

A Letter from the Principal

I am the Principal, and represent the school and parish community of St. Dominic School in Benicia. In honor of the founding of our parish on March 17, 1854, we held a more-than-successful "fun"draiser in order to benefit the *Mission West: Campaign for Dominican Friars!* Called "Holy Hoops," our Eighth Grade Boys' Basketball Team challenged Fr. Michael Hurley, OP, Fr. John Marie Bingham, OP, and Br. Christopher Wetzel, OP, to a three-on-three exhibition game on March 15, 2013, to which the student body and parishioners were invited for a small fee.

With their donation, faculty, staff, and students were encouraged to wear non-school-uniform blue and white clothing as school supporters or black and white clothing as Dominican supporters; interspersed throughout the crowd, of course, were those who judiciously wore blue and black clothing! It was a very exciting forty-five minutes, and each team held their own, but ultimately the Friars were victorious! The photo that I have attached shows the group at the end of the contest, with the cheerleaders serving as scorekeepers. I am happy to report that I am sending \$650 via snail mail to the Mission West Campaign for Dominican Friars, the results of this wonderful community-building day. We are so very grateful for the Dominican presence on campus and at school events, and it is our pleasure to offer this gift to your campaign.

The Western Dominicans



THE WESTERN DOMINICAN PROVINCE In the United States

ALASKA

Holy Family Cathedral, *Anchorage*

ARIZONA

St. Thomas More Newman Center, *Tucson*

CALIFORNIA

Campus Ministry, U.C.S.D., *San Diego*

Catholic Community at Stanford, *Stanford*

Dominican Mission Foundation, *San Francisco*

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology,
Berkeley

Holy Rosary Church, *Antioch*

St. Albert Priory, *Oakland*

St. Andrew Newman Center, *Riverside*

St. Dominic Church, *Benicia*

St. Dominic Church, *San Francisco*

St. Dominic Church, *Los Angeles*

St. Jude Shrine, *San Francisco*

St. Mary Magdalen Church, *Berkeley*

St. Raymond Church, *Menlo Park*

COLORADO

Catherine of Siena Institute, *Colorado Springs*
(Located outside the Western Province)

NEVADA

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Newman Center,
Las Vegas

OREGON

St. Benedict Lodge, *McKenzie Bridge*

Holy Rosary Church and Priory, *Portland*

Rosary Center and Confraternity, *Portland*

St. Thomas More University Parish, *Eugene*

UTAH

St. Catherine of Siena University Parish,
Salt Lake City

WASHINGTON

Blessed Sacrament Parish, *Seattle*

Catholic Newman Center at the UW, *Seattle*

The Dominicans of the Western Province serve in eighteen parishes and Newman Centers throughout the Western United States, providing sacramental, spiritual and educational formation to over 40,000 people. We also direct two retreat houses within the Province. The Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley continues to form new clergy and lay leaders for the Church in the 21st century. Western Dominicans are serving as professors and academic support in colleges and universities throughout the country. Western Dominican Preaching and the St. Catherine of Siena Institute offer parishes a talented preaching ministry and gift discernment workshops. The St. Jude Shrine and Rosary Confraternity promote prayer for those in greatest need. Our HIV/AIDS outreach ministry is one of the largest and most respected ministry of its kind in the country. Individual friars are also actively spreading the Gospel message through public medium such as Catholic Answers, and through the arts, including iconography and film production, as well as other creative ministries too numerous to mention. Worldwide, the Dominican Mission Foundation serves the poor in Mexico, Guatemala, Kenya and Lithuania. Our faculty and student endeavors at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland, the Angelicum in Rome, the Katholische Universitaet in Germany, and the L'Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem, work to build up the intellectual life of the Church.

PRISON WALK

By Nina Butorac, Director of Outreach - Blessed Sacrament Parish



I WAS INTRODUCED TO PRISON MINISTRY a few years back when members of Blessed Sacrament's *Peace and Justice Committee* decided to visit the Monroe Correctional Complex, one of Washington State's penitentiaries. We called it a "border crossing," a term coined by the *JustFaith* program we were studying. A border crossing is an intentional venture meant to draw one out of self-complacency and into the lives of those who must struggle with deprivation, and whose faces are invisible to the eyes of the world. We went for the Friday evening rosary, Mass, and Bible study, and because we enjoyed it so much some of us signed up as regular volunteers and have continued in this ministry ever since.

One summer, a few years back, the prisoners organized and conducted a *walk-a-thon* for a local charity that helps children suffering from cancer. The inmates, who were sponsored by donors on the outside, ran, jogged, or marched around the prison athletic track in 95 degree heat in order to raise money for "the kids, man, the kids!" - as one walker put it.

I was a volunteer for this event, and one of my jobs was to help distribute water and sunscreen, because it was a scorching day. Sitting in the sun, reeking of coconut, it all seemed very festive, as if we were all at some great picnic.

"Does anyone need sunscreen?" a fair-skinned volunteer called out, waving a tube in the air. The African American inmates laughed heartily. "Don't laugh," said the volunteer, cheerfully applying lotion. "Dark-skinned people are vulnerable to skin cancer, too."

"We don't use that junk," one big, soft-spoken man said.

"Oh, I don't know," replied the volunteer, who had presumably traveled the world. "People in Africa use it all the time!"

"Well," said the inmate, "I'm not from Africa, I'm from *Alabama*, and we don't use that junk." More laughter. (I must confess, he did not exactly use the word "junk.")



After reviewing their instructions from the bench, the inmates got down to business, preparing to take on as many laps as they could manage in order to raise money for the charity. Off came the shirts and off went the runners, joggers, walkers and limpers. And let me tell you, I never saw so many tattoos in my life. There were hearts and guns, knives and angels, skulls and bones, ladies and crosses. It was really quite colorful.

My task now was to keep a written record of the laps each inmate completed. At first it was tough just getting all the names straight, as I had twenty-five men to keep track of; but by the eighth lap (two miles) I was getting the hang of it. Believe me, those tattoos really did help in distinguishing one runner from another! By the sixteenth lap most were pretty beat, but they kept going. Many were young, healthy men, but there were also a lot of older inmates, walking; some fat guys, huffing; some slow guys, shuffling; guys with canes, clinging. After about thirty laps, they were told to quit because their allotted time for the event was up, but I'm sure many of those inmates would have kept going for miles. It was impressive. In total, they raised over \$2,000 for the charity, all on this invisible day behind the walls of the state pen.

There is something particularly significant - when your life is nearly snuffed out behind prison bars - in doing a good thing for other people. Certainly one gains a sense of pride and accomplishment, but more importantly, I think, is the realization that we all share in a human dignity that can never be taken away; a recognition that comes most mercifully when we reach out in mercy toward another human being. And these inmates, isolated from the world, were throwing their physical all into helping "the kids, man, the kids!" - kids who also live in fear and isolation. Our faith teaches us that this dignity and this desire to give back is universal, part of our human nature, and that it is tattooed - if you will - on the vulnerable flesh of the human heart.



Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.

Romans 2:14-15

Our Call To Evangelize

By Walt Sears, Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization - Blessed Sacrament Parish



ACCORDING TO THE ENCYCLOPEDIA, an apostle - from the Greek *apostolos* - is one who is sent out, a messenger. In accordance with the Dominican mission, Blessed Sacrament Parish has the goal of becoming a Center of Faith Formation and

Evangelization, which, by definition, involves sending believers out – creating apostles. The entire parish community is aware of this goal and by and large accepts it.

Still, questions remain, who will be sent, and what will they do when they go out? The short answer, as reflected in the parish's evangelization prayer, is "we will carry his name to the ends of the earth." While it is true and makes for a lovely prayer, it lacks specificity and the directions necessary for practical application. Who will be sent forth? The Bishops' pastoral letter says *everyone* at the parish - every member of the body of Christ - "priests and religious, lay persons, staff, ministers, organizations, social clubs, parochial schools, and parish religious education programs" - must be involved and embrace evangelization as a personal calling. [USCCB, *Go and Make Disciples*] What we are called to do is bear witness to the light of Christ by virtue of our words and actions, and share the good news of God's love as fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

It is clear that the mission of evangelization will involve catechesis and training, faith formation, and encouragement. We must discuss what discipleship is and how to invite our parishioners to begin walking that path. This is the prerequisite conversion that the bishops remind us is the substance of our witness, and what must precede any attempt to share the faith. We must reaffirm the pillars of our faith and discuss how we can start to share them with a world that is not inclined to hear us.

We must reaffirm the pillars of our faith and discuss how we can start to share them with a world that is not inclined to hear us.

to bear witness in love regardless of the hostility they may face. We also must prepare to welcome the stranger, and to be ready for the fruits of our evangelism – to welcome and embrace people who don't know what it means to be Roman Catholic. We must reflect the face of Christ to them, and let them know that they are not only welcomed, but cherished among us. We must provide structures that facilitate our evangelization of one another – that

allow us to bear witness to God's grace as we walk the paths of discipleship and stewardship.

We must encourage one another, pray for one another, edify one another and lift one another up as we endeavor to embrace our call to be apostles. We must become Eucharist to the world.



*"Be who God meant you to be
and you will set the world on fire."*

- St. Catherine of Siena

TRANSITIONS

RESIDENCY PLACEMENTS FOR STUDENT BROTHERS

Br. Bradley Elliott, OP
St. Dominic, San Francisco
Br. Kevin Andrew, OP
St. Thomas More Newman Center, Tucson
Br. Denis Klein, OP
St. Dominic, Los Angeles
Br. Corwin Low, OP
St. Dominic, Benicia
Br. Justin Gable, OP
St. Mary Magdalen, Berkeley

ORDAINED TO PRIESTHOOD May 31, 2013

Fr. Ambrose Sigman, OP
Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz, OP

ORDINATION TO DEACONATE May 31, 2013

Rev. Br. Justin Gable, OP
Rev. Br. Peter Hannah, OP

SOLEMN VOWS May 4, 2013

Br. Michael James Rivera, OP
Br. Gabriel Mosher, OP

SIMPLE VOWS August 31, 2013

Br. Matthew Peddemors, OP
Br. Pius Youn, OP
Br. Jonathan Lepak, OP
Br. Thomas Sundaram, OP

CHANGES IN RESIDENCY AND/OR MINISTRY

Fr. Jerome Cudden, OP
Pastor/Superior
St. Dominic, Benicia
Fr. Christopher Fadok, OP
Pastor/Superior
St. Raymond, Menlo Park
Fr. Vincent Mary Kelber, OP
Pastor
Holy Rosary, Portland
Fr. Isaiah Mary Molano, OP
Parochial Vicar
St. Dominic, San Francisco
Fr. Ambrose Sigman, OP
Parochial Vicar
St. Raymond, Menlo Park
Fr. Stephen Maria Lopez, OP
Parochial Vicar and Prior
Holy Rosary, Portland
Fr. Xavier Lavagetto, OP
Parochial Vicar
Stanford / Menlo Park
Fr. Boniface Willard, OP
Parochial Vicar
St. Dominic, Los Angeles
Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz, OP
Parochial Vicar
St. Mary Magdalen, Berkeley

CHANGES IN RESIDENCY AND/OR MINISTRY

Fr. Jacek Buda, OP
Parochial Vicar
St. Thomas More, Eugene
Fr. James Thompson, OP
Parochial Vicar/Superior
St. Thomas More, Tucson
Fr. Francis-Hung Le, OP
Parochial Vicar
Blessed Sacrament, Seattle
Fr. Marcin Szymanski, OP
Parochial Vicar
Blessed Sacrament, Seattle
Br. Daniel Thomas, OP
St. Dominic, San Francisco

We Remember...

IN MEMORIAM

Fr. John Flannery, OP
March 24, 2013
Fr. John Yanko Zagar, OP
May 1, 2013
Fr. George Matanic, OP
July 16, 2013

Fr. John Flannery, OP

March 14, 1932 - March 24, 2013



"In his Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, 'Blessed are you who mourn; you will be consoled.' Who of us cannot mourn the death of John Flannery? Saint Augustine says that we

who are alive naturally shrink from death because it is so foreign and, when it is someone we love who has died, so sad. But everything in our faith assures us that one day we will be consoled. For one day each of us who walks under that same certain sad sentence of death will find ourselves challenged as John was – to die. And on that day we shall be grateful that John has gone ahead to show us how."

- Fr. Reginald Martin, OP

Fr. John Yanko Zagar, OP

September 21, 1921 - May 1, 2013



Fr. Yanko Zagar, OP, was born in Croatia in 1921 and immigrated to the United States after World War II. He joined the Dominican Order and was ordained a priest in 1948. His academic achievements include a Lectorate in Sacred Theology from Blackfriars Hall in Oxford, a Masters of Arts from Oxford University, and a Doctorate from the University of Paris (Sorbonne). Fr. Zagar taught at the DSPT, where he was professor Emeritus of Moral and Social Philosophy, and where he had previously served as President. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Fr. George Matanic, OP

September 22, 1943 - July 16, 2013



"I don't know what prayer began his day, but if I had to give it words, they are Scripture's: 'See Lord, I have come to do your will' [Heb 10:7] George was not complicated; he was steadfast in his service to people, to the Province and to his family. He saw and served God in people. What more is a priest to do?... above all you must know that he loved his God, he loved his family, he loved his Church, he loved the Order, and he truly loved you. I can't think of a better way to go to God, can you?"

- Fr. Daniel Syverstad, OP



Province of the Holy Name
5877 Birch Court
Oakland, California 94618



A cta from the Chapter of Caleruega:



Photo by Marcia Kamin

In parishes we must not be satisfied with preaching to those who come to Mass. We require every province to consider its present commitment to parishes and ask if each one represents the best basis for itinerancy in preaching to the unchurched. Is a particular parish a basis of new evangelization? Can it become so? If not we should probably hand it over to the diocese.



(Chapter 2, no. 37)