



MISSION WEST

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

WE NEVER STOP PRAYING FOR YOU

The Dominicans remember you daily
in their prayers and good works



- ✦ Pro Life: spreading HOPE during a Pandemic
- ✦ 25, 40, 50, 60 years of ministry made possible by you
- ✦ Open doors and open hearts
- ✦ St. Joseph: His YES at the Annunciation



THE QUOTABLE DOMINICAN

St. Thomas Aquinas

1225 - 1274

Doctor of the Church and patron of Catholic universities, colleges, schools, and students.

Feast Day: January 28

St. Thomas wrote about the important role the Saints play in daily life.

He especially emphasized the power of St. Joseph, stating:

“Our holy patron St. Joseph has the power to assist us in all cases, in every necessity, in every undertaking.”

DID YOU KNOW?

From January 6, 2021, through January 6, 2022, the Dominican Family will be celebrating the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Dominic. When he died, he was buried in a wooden tomb. A decade later, his brethren sought his canonization—the process where he would be declared a Saint. This required that they exhume his body to collect the relics.

The Dominicans were concerned that his body might have rotted, as water had entered the wooden tomb. Because of this fear, they allowed only the friars to be present for the gathering of his relics. Rather than the expected stench, the friars found the remains to have a “pleasant, sweet smell.”

For all Catholics, the body plays an important role both in life and death. The question of incorruptibility was extremely important to medieval Catholics and for any process of canonization. The sweet, unexpected odor emanating from St. Dominic’s relics was a reminder to all those present of his holy life.



St. Dominic died 800 years ago. When his remains were exhumed for canonization, the friars found his relics to have a “pleasant, sweet smell.”

From the Vicar Provincial for Advancement

Hope will guide us to our
heavenly homeland



Dear Friends,

One year ago, I said Mass to a congregation concerned about a new virus—it was the first Sunday of Lent 2020. People were nervous about participating in the sign of peace or receiving the Precious Blood. Everyone was on edge. Little did we know this was our last public Mass.

We entered Lent...and it seemed to last all year. The past twelve months have included struggle, joblessness, sickness and even death. It has been a challenging, dark year.

Yet in the midst of uncertainty, there is much HOPE! This Lent, one year later, we wish you a big joyful welcome back if (for any reason) you have been unable to come to church these past twelve months. Though an understandable caution exists as some establishments and Churches are able to re-open—we are throwing caution to the wind when it comes to opening up our hearts for the love of God!

Providentially, Pope Francis has declared this a “Year of St. Joseph.” What a model of fidelity he is for all of us! He stood in for Jesus’ Father, but also reflected the Father’s love back to Jesus. What good news it is that we, brothers and sister of Jesus by baptism, can rightfully call St. Joseph our father!

Joseph settled the Holy Family in Nazareth and established the quiet family life which nurtured our Lord until He began his public ministry. And in the midst of all of this, Joseph doesn’t even utter one word in Scripture! He is one of the most important saints in the history of salvation, yet he does so with a silent and trusting fidelity.

Whatever comes next in these uncertain times—hope or fear, joy or challenge—the Dominicans are committed to the TRUTH and to YOU. We pray for your soul to enter heaven!

Brothers and Sisters—we need only one thing: to become Saints, pure and simple! **Even when it seems we are “strangers in a strange land,” may our focus remain on the HOPE of Christ’s Resurrection at Easter, until we reach our heavenly homeland!**

In Christ and St. Dominic,

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

Cover Photo: The pandemic has brought challenges, fear, and uncertainty to our lives. Through it all we’ve never stopped praying for you. We also give thanks to God for HOPE! In this photo, one of our newest friars, Br. Michael Thomas Cain, O.P., continues his life of prayer. He entered the novitiate months before the pandemic began and is now a student brother in simple vows. Thank you for praying for him!

Friars Pray for End to Abortion

During COVID-19, we pray for the end to a different type of pandemic: abortion

Amidst the pandemic, we know that death can be near and life is a gift. We also remember and grieve the loss of thousands of lives that never saw the light of day: America's aborted babies. We Dominicans remain committed to fighting this evil. The dignity of every life is sacred, from conception to natural death.

On January 22nd, the Day of Prayer for the Unborn, the friars of St. Albert's Priory in Oakland held an all-night vigil. They prayed fervently for these lost lives and an end to abortion. Friars at St. Dominic's Church in San Francisco held a vigil Mass for Life. Fr. Michael asked us to pray for those scarred by abortion, highlighting Black communities disproportionately affected by abortion.

Because of your support, we can remain committed to LIFE during this pandemic. May we pray for life and hope... for those at risk from the virus, for those who feel abortion is their only choice, and for the lives lost to abortion. May we love with open hearts, giving thanks for the gift of life.

"Come Holy Spirit source of life! Renew our hearts, renew our lives. Give us hearts of gratitude, hearts of humility, hearts of courage. For in you is the source of life, and in your light we shall see light itself."

—Fr. Michael Hurley, O.P.

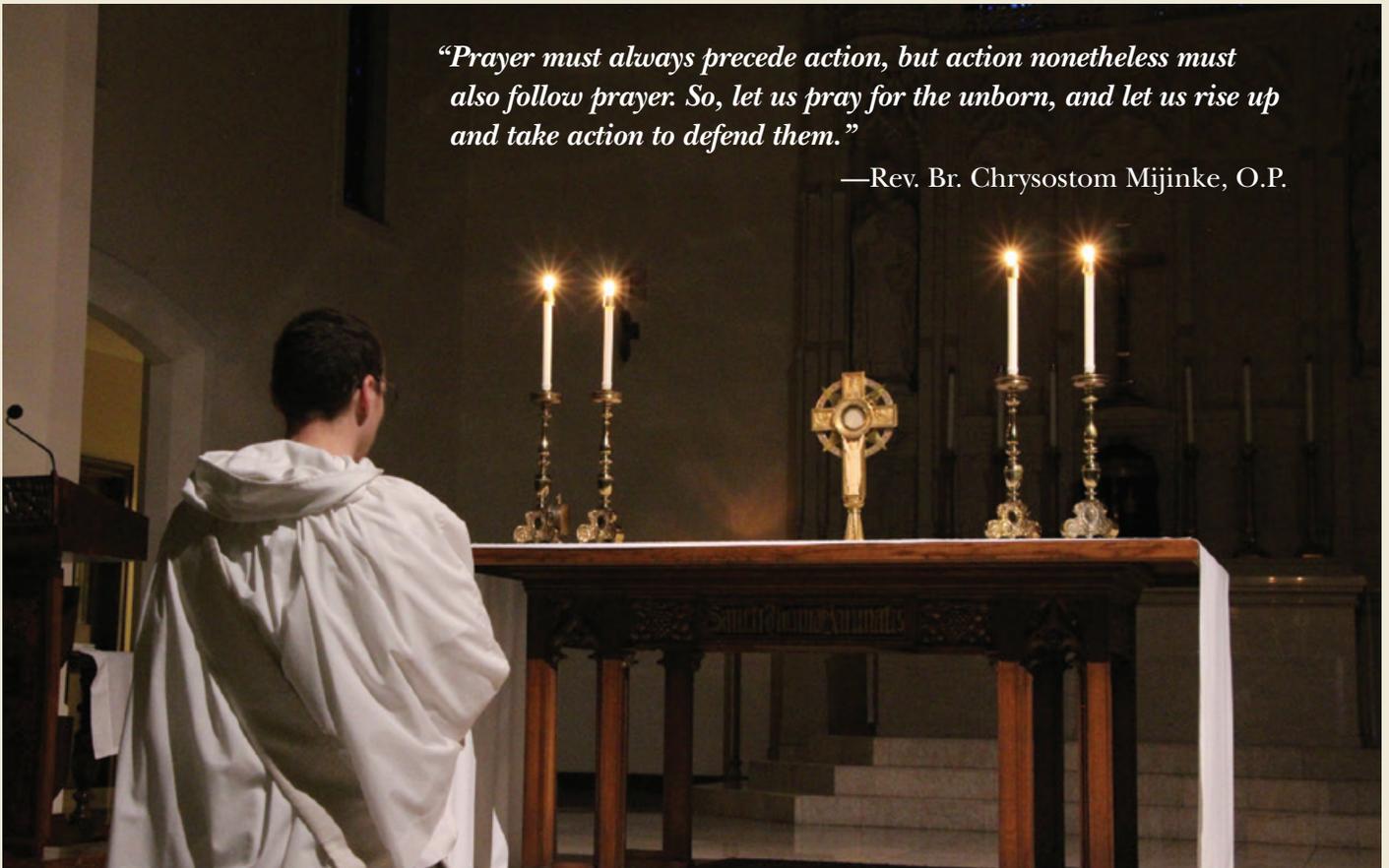


Fr. Michael Hurley, O.P., preaches for a renewal of hearts during the Vigil for Life at St. Dominic's Church in San Francisco.

Rev. Br. Chrysostom Mijinke, O.P., exposes the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel of St. Albert the Great Priory. The friars held an all-night vigil for life during the weekend of the annual Walk for Life West Coast.

"Prayer must always precede action, but action nonetheless must also follow prayer. So, let us pray for the unborn, and let us rise up and take action to defend them."

—Rev. Br. Chrysostom Mijinke, O.P.



St Joseph: His YES at the Annunciation

In the “dual annunciation,” we are called deeper into our own vocations

At the Annunciation, Mary says “yes” to becoming the Mother of God. Similarly, when the angel appears to St. Joseph in a dream, he says “yes” to becoming the earthly father of Jesus. At the same time, he reaffirms his commitment as Mary’s betrothed husband.

In the “dual annunciation” to Mary and Joseph we perceive a profound witness to marriage. For in the Jewish culture, those who were betrothed made a much firmer commitment than our contemporary notion of “engagement.” When St. Joseph is betrothed to Mary, he gives his full consent to a life with her. He makes a life-long covenant to love her and welcome any

children. When the angel appears to Joseph in a dream, he reaffirms his commitment to Mary, a commitment that now has a new, unimaginable dimension. For he also receives his vocation as father to the Christ child (see Mt. 1:20). St. John Paul II writes in *Redemptoris Custos*: “In the words of the “annunciation” by night, Joseph not only heard the divine truth concerning his wife’s indescribable vocation; he also heard once again the truth about his own vocation.”



Fr. John Marie Bingham, O.P.,
is the Director of Vocations

We ask St. Joseph to pray for us, as we learn the truth of our own vocations. We turn to St Joseph when we are called in our own lives to a greater gift of self. We ask him for his prayers when we are called to greater generosity towards our families and greater trust in the Lord during difficult times. He is our example, he who had such trust to let the Lord mold his love until it was capable of receiving Our Lady and the Christ child.

St. Joseph knew deeply the love of God in his vocation as husband and father. St. John Paul II writes: “This love of God also molds—in a completely unique way—the love of husband and wife, deepening within it everything of human worth and beauty, everything that bespeaks an exclusive gift of self, a covenant between persons, and an authentic communion according to the model of the Blessed Trinity.”

The Lord calls all of us to say YES to the vocations he has created for us. As Mary and Joseph entered into a life of marriage raising the Christ child, so we turn to St. Joseph as we strive to love our families. Perhaps this moment of uncertainty and pandemic is an opportunity to make a new beginning in our own families, one rooted in Christ’s love.

May we all be shaped by God’s love, allowing it to mold us to become more like our faithful protector—St. Joseph.

—Fr. John Marie Bingham, O.P.



The Dream of St. Joseph by Philippe de Champaigne,
1642-3.

With Your Support, We Persevere in Ministry

Our lives of faith have understandably looked different during COVID-19. Thanks to your generosity, our friars have creatively ministered to the faithful during the pandemic, working hard to keep souls close to Christ.

“Let the Word of God be made flesh and dwell within you. Live to be united to Christ. Seek to be truly sons and daughters of God and settle for nothing less.”

—Br. Andrew Thomas Kang, O.P.



Fr. James Moore, O.P., and Fr. Christopher Wetzel, O.P., attend the Walk for Life West Coast Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco. Although restrictions limited attendance at public events, friars across the province spent the night in prayer for the unborn.



Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz, O.P., Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Seattle, worked with his staff to find creative ways to continue their marriage preparation program (above) safely during the pandemic.

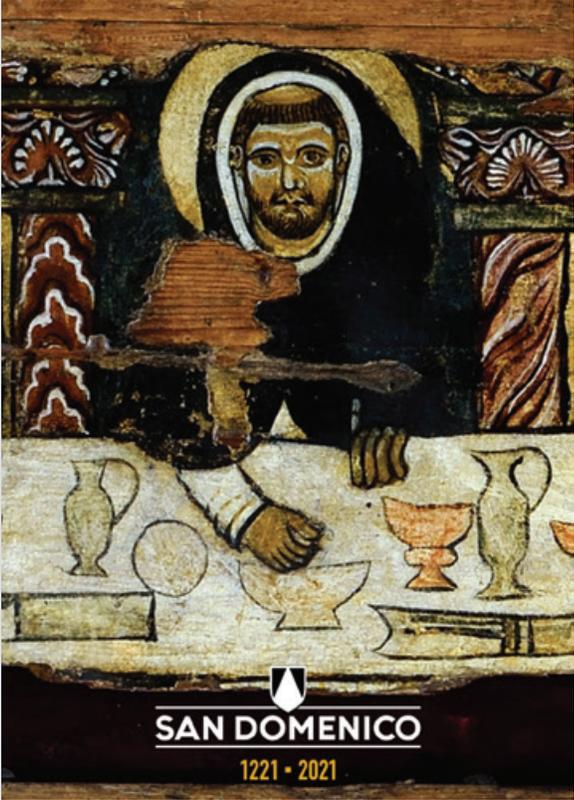
During SEEK21, Fr. Emmanuel Taylor, O.P., talks with University of Oregon students at the St. Thomas More Newman Center. Friars are reaching out to young people, keeping them connected to the faith. (Photo Credit: Grant Whitty)



Fr. Jerome Cudden, O.P., speaks with a parishioner of St. Raymond's in Menlo Park, CA. Even with restrictions, friars have worked to connect safely with the faithful. (Photo Credit: Randy Vazquez)

800 Years

The Dominicans have always been a mendicant order—relying on the generosity of those around them to support their mission of preaching for the salvation of souls. We give thanks for the fidelity of the friars throughout the centuries and for your support which makes it possible to carry St. Dominic's mission into our time.



Worldwide, the Dominicans are celebrating 800 years since the death of Saint Dominic. The Saint's last words called his brothers to: "have charity for one another, to guard humility, and to make a treasure of voluntary poverty." It was only 13 years after his death that St. Dominic was canonized by Pope Gregory IX. Through the past eight centuries, the Holy Spirit has used St. Dominic's order and the faithful to spread truth across the globe.

25, 40, 50, 60 years.... Celebrating Faithful Service to Christ and to You

This year we celebrate numerous jubilarians in our province! We give glory to God for their fruitful lives, and for your gracious support of their ministries



Fr. Xavier Lavagetto, O.P.

25th Jubilee | Ordained March 23, 1996

Fr. Xavier served for many years as the Pastor of St. Dominic's in San Francisco. He faithfully guided the parish through extensive renovations, which will benefit many generations of parishioners. He currently serves the Catholic Community at Stanford campus ministry.



Fr. Joseph Sergott, O.P.

25th Jubilee | Ordained June 1, 1996

Fr. Joseph has been involved in campus and parochial ministry for a number of years. He has faithfully served in leadership positions during critical times for the Church and is currently Director of the Rosary Center in Portland, OR.



Fr. David Bello, O.P.

40th Jubilee | Ordained March 20, 1981

Fr. David has a faithful missionary spirit. He was a cooperater brother for many years before discerning a call to the priesthood. He is now serving as the Pastor of the Parroquia de Santa Maria in Mexicali, Mexico.



Fr. Raymond Finerty, O.P.

50th Jubilee | Ordained December 17, 1971

Fr. Raymond was involved in campus ministry across the Western Province. He is now retired, living at Blessed Sacrament Priory in Seattle, WA.



Fr. Kieran Healy, O.P.

60th Jubilee | Ordained June 9, 1961

Fr. Kieran spent many years in parochial ministry and as a missionary in Kenya. He is currently Director of St. Benedict Lodge and Retreat Center in McKenzie Bridge, OR.



Six More Dominicans to Be Ordained June 5

Learn more at opwest.org/ordinations

Six of our brothers will be ordained by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco on June 5, 2021 at 10:30am at St. Dominic's Church in San Francisco. Thank you for your generous support of these friars through their years of initial formation. Livestream and additional event information will be posted on opwest.org/ordinations.

DIACONATE

Br. Joshua Gatus, O.P.
Br. Matthew Heynen, O.P.
Br. Joseph Selinger, O.P.

PRESBYTERATE

Rev Br. Chrysostom Mijinke, O.P.
Rev. Br. John Winkowitsch, O.P.
Rev. Br. Martin Maria Nguyen, O.P.
(Vicariate of St. Vincent Pham Hieu Liem)

Aquinas Lecture to be delivered by Archbishop Anthony Fisher, O.P., of Sydney Australia

You're invited to join Archbishop Anthony Fisher, O.P., for the Aquinas Lecture. This annual event is hosted by the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology and is its premier public lecture. The presentation will be held April 27th, 5:30pm via Zoom. Free tickets available at dspt.edu/events



SATURDAY NIGHT ROSARY | 7PM PST
LIVESTREAM.COM/OPWEST OR YOUTUBE.COM/OPWEST



Be on the lookout! A brand new
OPWEST.org is coming soon.

CONGRATULATIONS

to our distinguished 2021 awardees
 honored at this year's



MOTHER ASSUMPTA LONG, O.P.
PRIORSS GENERAL
DOMINICAN SISTERS OF MARY
MOTHER OF THE EUCHARIST
 RECIPIENT OF THE 2021 *O LUMEN* AWARD

THE PROVINCIAL *Gala* VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE



† **ANGELO STAGNARO**
DEDICATED FRIEND
 RECIPIENT OF THE 2021
ARCHBISHOP ALEMANY AWARD

Thank you to all who attended and supported our preaching mission. A special note of heartfelt gratitude is extended to all our benefactors; Bishop Robert Barron; Mother Assumpta and the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist; the Master of the Order, Fr. Gerard Timoner III, O.P.; Mr. Mark Croce; Socius for Fraternal Life & Formation, Fr. Mark Padrez, O.P.; and our very generous
Provincial Sponsors: Diane and James Link, as well as our Premier Sponsors: Kathleen Lund, Ascension, and Robert A. Ferris.

Missed the evening's festivities? Don't worry!
 Watch the powerful presentation at opwest.org/galawatch

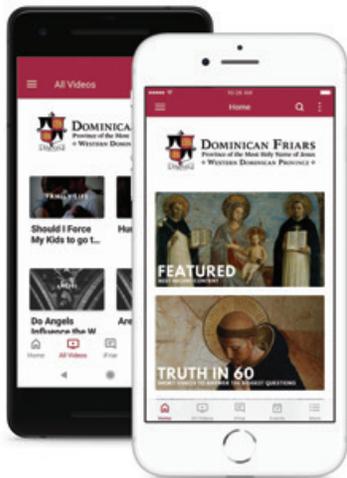
The Master of the Order asks Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology to Become International Center of Study



The Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology has been recognized by the Master of the Order as a worldwide leader in the intellectual and spiritual formation of Dominican friars. As such, the Master has asked the Western Dominican Province to welcome brothers globally to participate in our academic and spiritual life.

This is a great honor and testament to the impact of your support and the ministry of the friars. You've made the DSPT a strong academic institution centered on the truth. And now, your generosity has made it possible for us to offer formation to brothers from around the world!

A gift to you from the Dominicans.
Download the new OPWest app.



Available in App Stores



opwest.org/app

Seek Truth. Learn the Faith.

TWO FREE SERVICES FOR YOU

Don't have a Will?

Visit FreeWill.com/opwest
to create one.

Protect your loved ones and assets by using this secure online tool to easily create a last will and testament.

Age 70 1/2?

Visit FreeWill.com/qcd/opwest to make
a gift from your IRA.

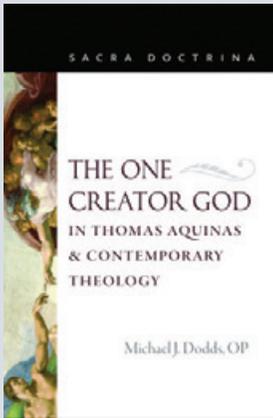
This simple online tool will help you complete the right form for a Qualified Charitable Distribution to the Dominicans or your parish, which can help you meet your Required Minimum Distribution.



DOMINICAN FRIARS
Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

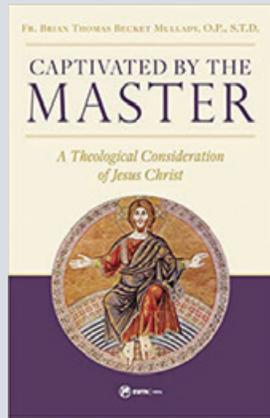
Read These!

Highlights of recent Dominican publications. Grow in your knowledge of the faith!



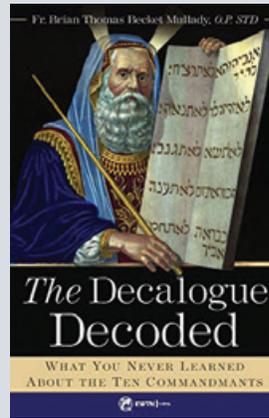
Fr. Michael Dodds, O.P.

The One Creator God in Thomas Aquinas and Contemporary Theology



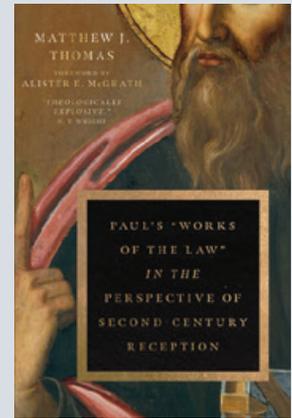
Fr. Brian Mullady, O.P.

Captivated by the Master: A Theological Consideration of Jesus Christ



Fr. Brian Mullady, O.P.

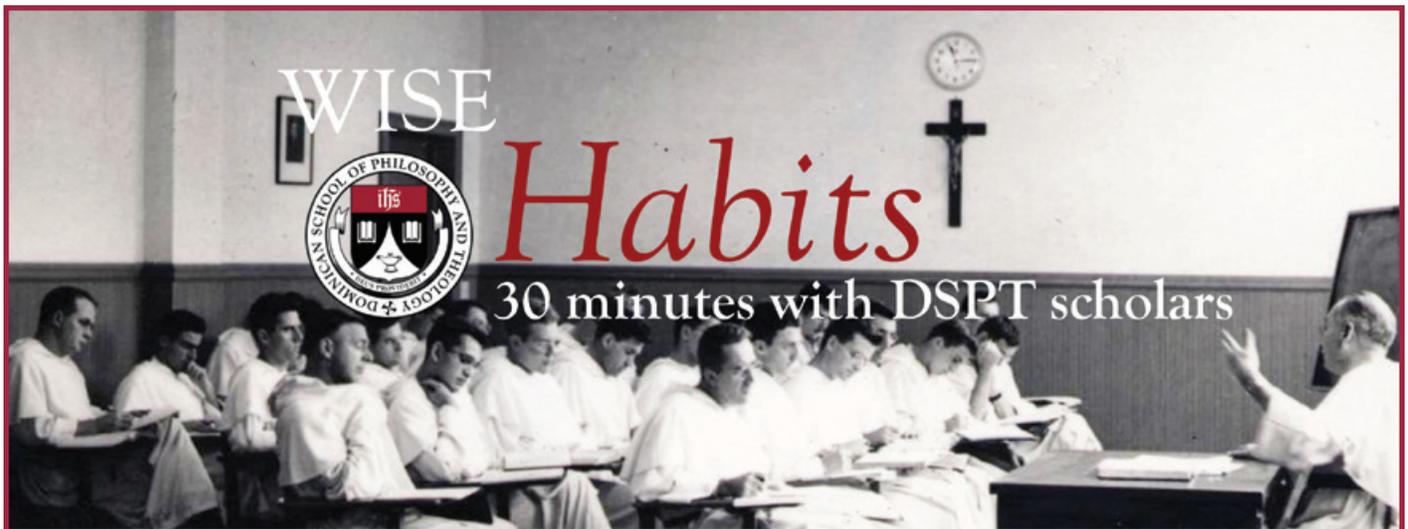
The Decalogue Decoded: What you Never Learned about the Ten Commandments



Dr. Matthew Thomas

(DSPT Professor)
Paul's "Works of the Law" in the Perspective of Second-Century Reception

ALL BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE AT [AMAZON.COM](https://www.amazon.com)



Once a month, our Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology opens their virtual doors to welcome you to experience the fruits of the Dominican intellectual tradition. Talks are hosted by faculty and alumni, whose studies were made possible by your support.

PLEASE JOIN US AT: [DSPT.EDU/EVENTS](https://www.dspt.edu/events)

THURSDAY, APRIL 15TH
Speaking our Faith to a Polarized Society, Fr. Michael Sweeney, O.P., Lay Mission Project

THURSDAY, MAY 27TH
Unlocking Divine Action, Fr. Michael Dodds, O.P., DSPT Professor of Philosophy & Theology

THURSDAY, JUNE 17TH
Are Computers Smarter than the Average 8-year-old? A Philosophical Look at Artificial Intelligence, Dr. Marga Vega, DSPT Professor of Philosophy

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19TH
Dominican Cooperator Brothers, Fr. Augustine Thompson, O.P., DSPT Professor of History

A Profile in Generosity: The Ikegami Family

Experiencing God's presence and love through the Dominicans

How did you first get involved/connected with the Dominicans?

I (Cindy) first connected with the Dominicans through the St. Dominic's Young Adult group in San Francisco. I got more involved several years later by attending daily Mass at St. Albert's Priory and introduced my husband Brad to the Dominicans.

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

We are grateful to have so many memories with the Dominicans! But if we had to pick one... the Dominicans have been a major presence in our family throughout the years, especially during our painful struggle with infertility. They supported us with prayers and the sacraments, which helped us seek and trust God's will for our family. So it was incredibly meaningful for us that Fr. Bryan Kromholtz, O.P., baptized our three children. Fr. Bryan was also there for us after a pregnancy loss. Through his ministry, we powerfully experienced God's presence and love during that time.

Why do you choose to support the Dominicans?

Watching the young Dominican student brothers progress in their formation at St. Albert's Priory gives us great hope for the future of the Church and her ability to proclaim the Gospel. We feel fortunate to be able to participate in this work in some way. Seeing many of the former student brothers who were in formation now vibrantly living out their vocations as priests is very rewarding... definitely a very high return on investment!

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

The ability to explain the truths of the Gospel to our culture by meeting it where it's at: bringing faith to the common ground of reason. Knowing the Dominicans has given us confidence to share the Gospel in our own circles,

knowing that we are standing on the broad shoulders of intellectual giants of the faith.

Why do you think interest in the Dominican Order is growing?

Faithfulness to the truth of Christ and the Gospel. As the truth has become more rare and precious in our culture, it seems natural that demand would increase.

What do you wish other people knew about the Dominicans?

We have seen the Dominicans perform miracles. When we were involved with a Catholic marriage preparation ministry, we often served at retreats with Dominicans. The majority of the participants had been away from the church for years. A Dominican friar would enter the room in full habit, inspiring awe in the group, and then give a talk on confession and invite everyone to the sacrament. Every time, most, if not all, would voluntarily sign up for confession. It was so powerful to witness people responding to God's love and mercy through the Dominicans.



Brad and Cindy Ikegami celebrate their 12th wedding anniversary at St. Albert's Priory with their three children. The Ikegami's celebrate every wedding anniversary by attending Mass at the Priory with their children.



Fr. Brian Kromholtz, O.P., baptizes the Ikegami's first child, Theresa. The Ikegami's experienced the support of the Dominicans during a painful struggle with infertility, loss of a pregnancy, and the births and baptisms of their three children

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

Photo Credits: Grant Whitty, Randy Vazquez