

# MISSION WEST

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

## NOTHING BUT YOU, O LORD

Seven More Men Prepare  
to Preach the Gospel



- ✦ Meet the Novices
- ✦ The Rosary: Following Christ's Footsteps
- ✦ Double Your Impact: December 31st Deadline



## THE QUOTABLE DOMINICAN

# St. Albert the Great

1200-1280

Bishop, Doctor of the Church,  
and patron of scientists, philosophers,  
medical technicians, and the natural sciences.

Feast Day: November 15

St. Albert is the Universal Doctor of the Church. Notably, he was the teacher of St. Thomas Aquinas and inspired his studies.

Renowned as both a scientist and philosopher, his studies always centered around the love of Christ:

*“If, then, we possess love, we possess God, for ‘God is love.’”*



Our House of Studies, pictured above, is named after St. Albert, the famous teacher of St. Thomas Aquinas.

## DID YOU KNOW?

St. Albert the Great is known as the Doctor Universalis, “the Doctor of all things.” For this reason, our House of Studies is named after him, and our student brothers are commended to his care.

Through his careful observation of nature, he sought a deeper knowledge and love of the Creator. In his commentary on the Gospel of Matthew, he wrote: “The whole world is theology for us because the heavens proclaim the glory of God.”

The seven years of spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation within the context of a common life are completed under St. Albert’s patronage. Following in his footsteps, the student brothers prepare to preach the Gospel by striving to comprehend more fully the goodness, beauty, and truth of God.

Cover Photo: In this photo, one of our newest brothers lies prostrate on the ground, tangibly demonstrating his promise to serve Christ, the Order, and you. In a world that promises greatness, the seven men who took Simple Vows this Fall will offer their lives as a sacrifice. They will spend hundreds of hours in prayer, contemplation, study, and service. With your continued support, these men will become great preachers of the Gospel, prepared to walk by your side through every season of life.

## From the Vicar Provincial for Advancement

Your support helps the formation of Dominican priests where they are needed most here in the U.S.



Dear Friends,

With your prayers and God's grace, some incredible things are happening in the United States. Often, developing nations are held as examples of religious order growth. And while this can be true, there is growth right here at home. **In fact, Dominicans in formation in the United States now account for about one-seventh of all Dominican vocations worldwide!** And interestingly enough, we're growing the most where the need for evangelization is the greatest: the Northeast and the Pacific Coast.

It cannot be an accident that God is having the Dominicans grow in the least church and unevangelized parts of our nation—places that also represent centers of modern influence and power: Silicon Valley and Washington, D.C.

Pope Francis has called us all to “go to the periphery” of the church's reach. Indeed, in San Francisco, the periphery often comes to us. Many who may barely be Catholic find their way to our great St. Dominic's Church and its St. Jude Shrine. Here, pilgrims light candles and beg for St. Jude's intercession, praying to God for help in some of life's most desperate causes. And we friars are there to support them.

The name of Judas Iscariot, the traitor, often causes St. Jude to be forgotten by many. Thus, he is the patron of those whom the world considers most forgotten—the poorest and most despairing of souls. Let us all pray that those who are lost be found by our loving Savior (Luke 15).

Each October (the month of the Most Holy Rosary) we ask our friends to help our brothers in formation with a gift, and you came through spectacularly this year. With growth in vocations comes growth in our formation expenses, a great challenge to have. With you, and God's grace, there is no challenge we can't meet. Please accept my sincere thanks on behalf of all my Dominican brothers for your support of our *Rosary Sunday: Dominican Student Appeal*.

Thank you for supporting us in this great mission! The evangelization of souls waits for no man and we must be about this good and holy work. Thank you for standing by our side.

In Christ and our Holy Father Dominic,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. James Junipero Moore, O.P."

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



As they profess their first vows, our student brothers lay prostrate as a reminder that their lives are to be lived in service to Christ and the Church.

## “Nothing but You, O Lord!”

Seven more young men vow to live for God and you

God calls some men to leave it all behind. These men set aside a career and family life to pursue the life of an itinerant preacher. Over the next seven years of formation, they will complete a Master’s degree, pray the liturgy daily, and fill their days with ministry. At the end of their formation, they will be ready to preach the Gospel with charity and clarity, serving you, your loved ones, and the world for a lifetime!



With great joy, we welcome Br. John Vianney Russell, O.P., Br. Anthony Maria Akerman, O.P., Br. Cassian Smyth, O.P., Br. Anselm Dominic LeFave, O.P., Br. Peter Pius Chu, O.P., Br. Peter Augustine Hoang, O.P., and Br. Jordan Martin, O.P., as our Brothers. They have professed their first vows, the first in a series of vows they’ll take. Leaving the novitiate, they can now add O.P. to their names. Thank you for your prayers and support of these young men!



Br. Jordan Martin, O.P., professes Simple Vows at the hands of Very Rev. Christopher Fadok, O.P., Prior Provincial.



*“Making my First Vows was a moment of putting God first and trusting that in doing so He will reveal all that He wants me to know.”* —Br. John Vianney Russell, O.P.

*“Making my First Vows has made me so grateful to be a part of this Dominican family of friars, nuns, sisters, and laity, and to have Dominic as my spiritual father.”*

—Br. Anthony Maria Akerman, O.P.

*“Making vows was a profound experience of receiving God’s love and mercy through the Dominican Order. Would I do it again? 100%!”* —Br. Cassian Smyth, O.P.

*“Professing religious vows has really convinced me of the power of dependence on God. I’m so excited to let Him continue to form me into an effective and authentic instrument of His Gospel.”*

—Br. Anselm Dominic LeFave, O.P.

*“I am overjoyed in being able to take this first step in conforming myself to Christ by professing the evangelical counsels. I’m very grateful to our benefactors for supporting Dominican vocations. Your support and prayers are instrumental in forming the preachers our world needs.”*

—Br. Peter Pius Chu, O.P.

*“Excited and frightened, these are two words that described how I felt during my first profession Mass, preparing to say my vows. On the one hand, I was frightened about the magnitude of the decision I was about to make but, also excited to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ and our Holy Father Dominic. No matter what happens, I have learned to trust in God wholly and let him guide me, just like a little child.”*

—Br. Peter Augustine Hoang, O.P.

*“The ceremony of First Vows was very peaceful and prayerful. It has been a long time I wanted to make such commitment, so I’m really glad I did. I received a grace of a more ‘fighting’ spirit in my spiritual life.”*

—Br. Jordan Martin, O.P.

# Meet the Novices

## An economist, an artist, and a theologian

**P**raise God for the three young men who are in our novitiate. During their novitiate year, these men will spend their days in prayerful contemplation and service. Thank you for praying for them and for providing for their needs through your generosity.



**Br. Moses Mary Jacobs**

Br. Moses Mary is from Pacific Palisades, CA, and earned his B.A. in Economics (Business Concentration) from Trinity University in San Antonio, TX. His desire to be a Dominican finds expression in the words of Psalm 39:3:

*My heart became hot within me.  
As I mused the fire burned; then  
I spoke with my tongue.*

He also experiences a burning desire to share the Truth who is Christ because He has given meaning to his life and his suffering. Br. Moses Mary enjoys outdoor activities, abiding by the ocean, and playing volleyball. He asks St. Thomas Aquinas to intercede for him, not because he is always the greatest student, but because he seeks to know the Truth.



**Br. John Paul Puschautz**

Br. John Paul grew up in Chicago, IL. He spent the last 10+ years in religious life with the Brothers of St. John, during which he and earned his M.A. in Systematic Theology from Seton Hall University. Jesus's words—

*If you continue in my word,  
you are truly my disciples and  
you will know the truth and the  
truth will make you free.  
(John 8:31–32)*

—have particular significance for him. He desires to help others find the freedom that comes from conforming one's life to Christ. Br. John Paul enjoys hiking, outdoor adventures, and basketball. As a formally trained artist, he asks Bl. Fra Angelico to intercede for him that he may share the fruits of his contemplation not just in words but lasting, tangible ways as well.



**Br. Isaiah Simon**

Br. Isaiah grew up in Redondo Beach, CA. He earned his B.A. in Theology and Philosophy from the Franciscan University of Steubenville. The words of Jesus in Luke's Gospel inspire him:

*Was it not necessary that the  
Christ should suffer these things  
and so enter into his glory? And  
beginning with Moses and all  
the prophets, he interpreted to  
them in all the scriptures the  
things concerning himself.  
(Luke 24:26–27)*

He hopes to show how all the scriptures point to Jesus and the saving mystery of the cross. Br. Isaiah enjoys basketball, volleyball, hiking and exploring new places with friends. He asks Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati to intercede for him that he may draw others to Christ by a life lived with strong faith and generous charity.

# St. Jude: The Forgotten Saint

## Patron of the despairing

**O**n the 28th of October, we celebrated the feast of St. Jude Thaddeus, who shares his first name with Judas Iscariot, the traitor of Jesus. Because of this, St. Jude is often forgotten by many.

Yet, it's because of this similarity in name that the Church invokes him for those who are most forgotten, those for whom hope is despaired.

The Shrine of St. Jude in San Francisco was founded in the 1930s during the Great Depression. During those dark years, many who despaired in their situation found hope through his intercession.

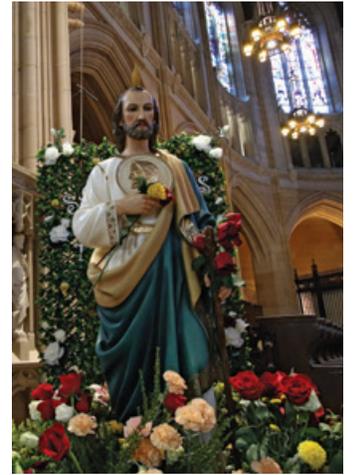
In the 1960s, those who were disillusioned by the cultural challenges rippling through society, found refuge and peace at the St. Jude shrine.

In the 1980s and 1990s, during the AIDS crisis in San Francisco, St. Jude inspired countless souls to convert to Catholicism, and brought peace and comfort to the suffering before they died.

Today, St. Jude continues to intercede in powerful ways. We see people returning to the faith, reunited with their families, and finding Christ again.

People who feel most disillusioned and alone, forgotten, or on the margins of society, have always found comfort in St. Jude, the patron of the forgotten and despairing.

We remember this forgotten saint and thank him for the hope he brings. May St. Jude always be at our side, especially in moments of doubt and despair, ordering our hearts and minds back to Christ, who is the source of all hope.



Learn more and enroll loved ones in St. Jude Shrine Novenas at [stjude-shrine.org](http://stjude-shrine.org)





Families and young adults spread devotion to the Rosary by walking the streets of Portland, OR, with Fr. Corwin Low, O.P.

## The Most Holy Rosary

For 800 years, Dominicans have had a special devotion to Our Lady and her Most Holy Rosary. So powerful a prayer, it has changed the course of history. Three Dominican Student Brothers share their insights on the Rosary with you and invite you to join them in devotion to our Blessed Mother.

### Br. Kevin Peter Cantu, O.P.

The Rosary has the power to change our lives and the way we experience the world. Because the mysteries of the Rosary are

the deepest truths and realities of the world, though we do not experience them with our senses, it is crucial to constantly put them before our mind's eye.

As the friend who moves away is too easily forgotten if we fail to write, call, or visit, so it is with our faith; if we want a living relationship with the ever present



Novice Br. Moses Mary hands out Rosaries at St. Dominic's, San Francisco.

God of love, who is with us always, we must learn to converse with Him always. And the Rosary, a gift from our holy Mother, is one of the best ways to do this.



### Br. John Vianney Russell, O.P.

By ruminating on the details of the mysteries we enkindle our affections and stoke the fire of charity within us. Let us reconsider the particulars of the mysteries of the most Holy Rosary to remember the reality of Christ's deep love for us.

As He received His crown of thorns, His hands may have still been bound but as he slightly adjusted the crown, his fingers may have caught the thorns.

He is untied not out of mercy but so He can receive the cross. And he receives it with open arms. His hands touch the wood which is the means of our salvation.

And finally, as He is crucified, His hands are nailed to that wood. But the nails were not what kept him on the cross. It was his love.

May we remember Jesus and his love for us every time we pray the Rosary.



### Br. David Woo, O.P.

The Rosary helps us to enter more deeply into the Incarnation, the mystery of God becoming Man, of the bridging of the gap between spiritual and material.

Let our bodies and souls be permeated by the Divine so that we may be made holy, overflowing in love to serve God and our neighbor.

We recall that St. Dominic was called by our Blessed Mother to preach her psalter: to preach the Rosary and its mysteries. This call will echo through the ages of time.



The Rosary brings us into deeper union with Christ. Fr. Gabriel Mosher, O.P., leads parishioners in the Rosary during a procession at Holy Rosary Church, Portland.

Let us contemplate and preach the Gospel news that God became one of us, so that we would be elevated and partakers of His divinity.



As Dominicans, we believe in Christ's power through the Rosary! Fr. Mark Francis Manzano, O.P., walks with parishioners during a Rosary procession.



## Double Your Impact Before December 31st

### \$100,000 Advent Matching Challenge Launched!

In celebration of the work of the Dominicans, and to inspire us as Advent begins, a group of generous friends have offered a \$100,000 Matching Challenge.

*This fabulous opportunity means any gift you plan to make during Advent, Christmas, or before the end of the tax year (December 31st) will immediately be doubled.*

Please join our friends from around the country (and world!) and unite your giving with theirs to accomplish something even greater.

Your donation is a great blessing to the apostolic work of the Dominicans and helps us lead souls to Christ!

But hurry, we only have until December 31st to reach our goal of meeting the \$100,000 Matching Challenge. Will you help us?

How to Make a Gift

Use the enclosed envelope or make a secure gift online at [opwest.org/advent2021](http://opwest.org/advent2021)

## TWO FREE SERVICES FOR YOU

WE'RE PLEASED TO OFFER THESE TOOLS FOR FREE. NO GIFTS TO THE FRIARS ARE REQUIRED.

### Don't have a Will?

Visit [FreeWill.com/opwest](http://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](http://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.

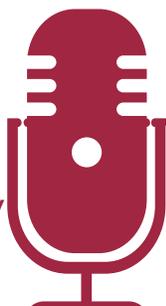
You can use these tools to help the Dominicans and other worthy causes!



**DOMINICAN FRIARS**  
Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

## Listen to your Favorite Dominicans

Our friars and professors have been creating great content. Enjoy these podcasts and grow in your knowledge of the faith!



Visit: [OPwest.org/podcasts](http://OPwest.org/podcasts) to find an updated list of our friars across the internet.

Fr. John Winkowitsch, O.P.

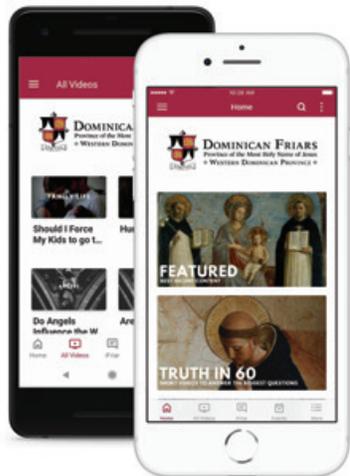
### *Knowing the Unknown God*

The Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology  
*Wise Habits*

Dr. Matthew Thomas (DSPT Professor)

### *Works of the Law: Early Church vs. The Reformation*

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Seek Truth. Learn the Faith.

# Rosary Sunday

DOMINICAN STUDENT APPEAL



## *Thank you!*

St. Dominic founded an order of mendicants (beggars). Without your support, we could not follow in his footsteps, preaching for the salvation of souls.

We are humbled by your generosity through this year's *Rosary Sunday: Dominican Student Appeal*, and keep you close in prayer.

*In Christ and St. Dominic,*  
*The Western Dominican Student Brothers and Novices*

P.S. There are 40 friars in formation, the most in over two decades! The Rosaries you've prayed for an increase in Dominican vocations are working!

## A Profile in Generosity: The Hammill Family

Led by Dominicans to God and one another

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

We met them at just about the same time we met each other—when we were undergrads at Occidental College in Los Angeles. The Newman Catholic Community at Oxy was run by the Dominicans down the street at St. Dominic's. Kathleen was the Newman student leader and Ryan was the student leader of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. We met at an ecumenical Palm Sunday BBQ—it took awhile, but eventually we fell in love. Kathleen was a philosophy major; Dominican spirituality was a natural fit for her, so after graduation she did a Dominican Volunteer Year in San Francisco, and once Ryan got his act together and proposed, we were married by Fr. Michael Fones, O.P., back at St. Dominic's in LA.

### What's your favorite memory with Dominicans?

Getting married, obviously! But we have so many great memories with them. Kathleen twice attended the Dominican Institute of Student Ministry at St. Albert's while in student ministry and got to meet many of the brothers. When the Dominicans were working on getting Ryan to swim the Tiber, Fr. Jerome Cudden, O.P., invited Ryan to Tenebrae at St. Dominic's. It was a beautiful and haunting experience listening to the Lamentations of Jeremiah by candlelight. When we lived in the Bay Area, Kathleen was part of the Dominican Laity at St. Dominic's in SF, run by Fr. Augustine Hilander, O.P., and Deacon Dino and Katharine Ornidó. The Ornidós did our marriage prep as well—they have been such an immense blessing to us.

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

So that they will have the resources to renew the church and save Western civilization. No pressure, guys!

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

Their attention to both philosophy and Scripture has enabled them to thread the needle of modernity exceptionally well. Without being swept along by the zeitgeist nor trying to re-pristinize the faith into a simulacrum of the Middle Ages, the Dominicans show us what fidelity to the church can look like in the modern world. That's a priceless gift.

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

Because they're winners! And everyone loves a winner. If you can confidently plunder the philosophic gold of the Egyptians, synthesize that with a faithful reading of the Bible, and cheerfully live a life of prayer and evangelism—who wouldn't want a piece of that? There should be Western Province Dominicans in every city on the West Coast!

### What has surprised you most about working with/knowing the Dominicans?

People see vowed religious in habits and tend to think of them as out of touch and overly strict and irrelevant to the modern world; in our experience of the Western Province Dominicans, nothing could be further from the truth! Every priest and brother that we've met is so exuberant and full of life! The Dominicans demonstrate how the old (Scripture, tradition, philosophy) brings life to the new.



Ryan and Kathleen Hammill support the Dominicans so that they will “renew the church and save Western civilization!”



Fr. Michael Fones, O.P., married Ryan and Kathleen Hammill at St. Dominic's in Los Angeles.

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

Photo Credits: Hammill Family

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