

MISSION WEST

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ISSUE 10 ■■■ Spring 2014

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“What Has Athens to do With Jerusalem?”

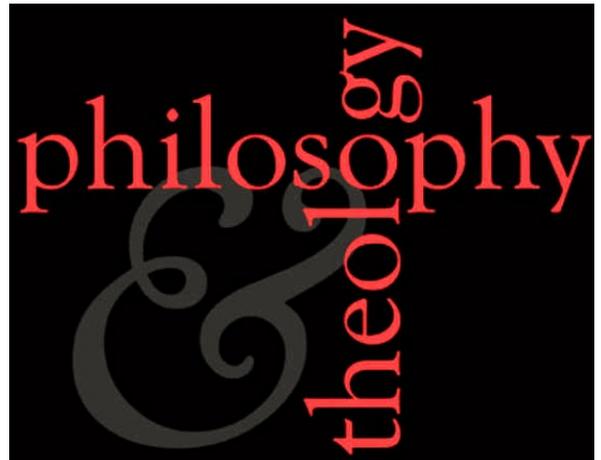
July 16 - 20, 2014

Philosophy & Theology Colloquium in Berkeley

Dominicans and Other Scholars to Discuss the Intersection of the Two Fields

WHAT CAN THEOLOGIANS and philosophers learn from one another? This is what will be explored this summer at an international colloquium sponsored by the Western Dominican Province and supported by the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology. Scheduled for July 16-20, 2014, in Berkeley, California, the event - entitled “What Has Athens to Do with Jerusalem?” - will gather scholars from academia and the Dominican Order throughout the world. This is to be the first in a series of colloquia (*Dominican Colloquia in Berkeley*), to recur every three years, on the intersection between philosophy and theology.

Why is this exchange between philosophy and theology so important for the Order? “Discussions like this one will help us bring the Catholic faith to the world,” said Fr. Bryan Kromholtz, OP, Regent of Studies of the Province, who is Organizer of the Colloquium and working with the Organizing Committee which includes



- Michael Dodds, OP
Dominican School of
Philosophy and Theology
- Edward Feser
Pasadena City College
- Alfred Freddoso
University of Notre Dame
- John O’Callaghan
University of Notre Dame
- Michał Paluch, OP
Dominican House of Studies,
Krakow, Poland
- John Searle
UC Berkeley
- Robert Sokolowski
Catholic University of America
- Linda Zagzebski
University of Oklahoma

Continued on page 5 ...



Presented by the Dominican School
of Philosophy and Theology

MISSIONWEST

ISSUE 10 Spring 2014

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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Prior Provincial

Fr. Joseph Sergott, OP
Socius and Vicar to the Provincial

Office of Development:

Fr. Daniel Syverstad, OP
Director of Development

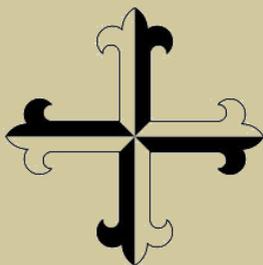
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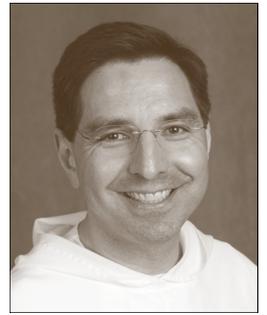
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From the Provincial ...

Dear Friends,

I shared a moving story recently with some friends in Alaska, and I thought I would share it again with you, as well. It has served as a constant reminder to me about the beauty of my priesthood, and the need for us all to continue to pray and support one other in our respective vocations.



A few years ago, not long after I was elected Provincial, I visited one of the most well known and beloved friars in our Province, Fr. Bede Wilks, OP, (1936 - 2011). During active ministry, Fr. Bede had been a poetic preacher, with a sharp mind and a great sense of humor. As such, he had made an impact on numerous ministries and countless lives throughout the Province, my own included.

At the end of his life, Fr. Bede had been struggling with severe Alzheimer's, and he spent his final years in a care facility. It was there that I visited him, along with another friar, hoping to share a few moments of laughter and friendship. It was soon clear, however, that Fr. Bede no longer recognized me. I was, nonetheless, grateful to see him.

Then something extraordinary happened, something that continues to inspire me today. In the middle of our visit Fr. Bede's distant gaze turned into a look of confidence and lucidity. He looked at me, and with total clarity said, "You know, I've been a Dominican for nearly fifty years, and it has been the greatest blessing. I don't regret a single minute of it!" And then he was gone again.

As a newly-elected Provincial, I had much on my mind and heart. Yet, Fr. Bede's words of faith and confidence in his vocation energized me and gave me strength. It was exactly what I needed to hear, and I knew God had been working through him. This moment left a deep impression on me, and reinforced how invaluable the wisdom of our aging friars is to our student brothers and to so many others.

As you know, providing care for our aging and elderly friars is one of the goals for our current *Mission West Campaign*. After a life of tireless service, we have a responsibility to provide friars like Fr. Bede with quality care. At an average expense of \$66,000 annually per friar, this is not a small financial commitment. However, it is absolutely essential because, as you can see, Dominicans never really retire; their ministry just takes a different form. In that spirit, I would like to thank you for your generous prayers and gifts over the years, particularly to our current *Mission West Campaign*.

I hope this story serves as a reminder to all of us that embracing our vocation is the path to peace and joy in Christ, and to real meaning in our lives. I continue to pray for you, that you may be strengthened in your vocation, and that God's will be done through us all.

Always in Christ,

Fr. Mark Padrez, OP
Prior Provincial

From the Development Director...

Dear Friends of the Western Dominican Province,

First of all, I would like to congratulate St. Dominic's Parish in Los Angeles (Eagle Rock), for having reached their Mission West Campaign goal ahead of everyone! Thank you for your generosity, and for all of the hard work you put into making your ministry goal. Holy Family in Anchorage has also just reached its Mission West goal, and they deserve our heartfelt congratulations, as well! The extraordinary effort that the good people of St. Dominic's and Holy Family have put into this Campaign is truly remarkable. And even though each took a very different approach, both were effective and extremely successful.



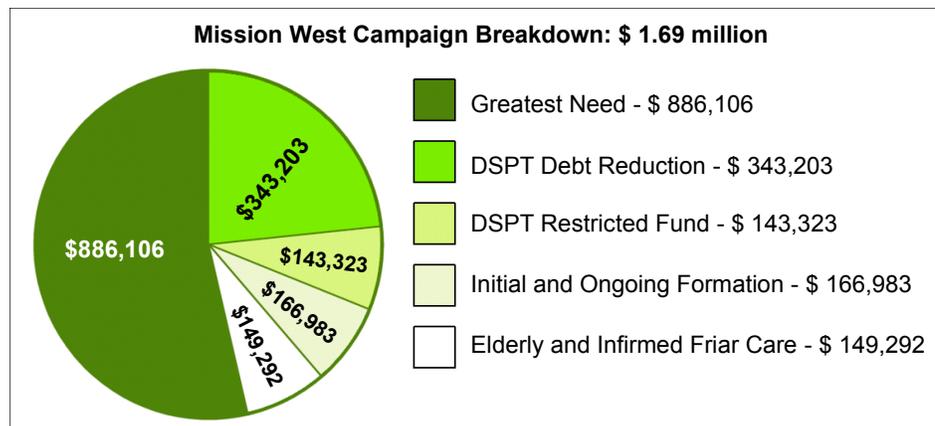
To all of you who are still vigorously working for the success of this Campaign, please accept my deepest gratitude and appreciation. Your energy, prayers, gifts and enthusiasm continue to make a tremendous impact on the Province, and on our mission to preach the Gospel message of love. I hope you know that your support for the Province will go to help all of the people we serve, now, and in the decades ahead.

Your gifts to the Campaign have already reached some 40,000 people in the ministries served by our Dominican friars. Over 1,300 donors have contributed nearly \$1.7 million to provide for our student brothers in formation, to support our Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, and to enable our sick and elderly friars to receive the care and medical attention they need. Thank you!

Gratitude is not always expressed best in words. It is my hope that you are seeing the results of your generosity, in the good work of our dedicated friars, and in the blessings our Lord bestows.

Sincerely in Christ,


Fr. Daniel Syverstad, OP
Director of Development

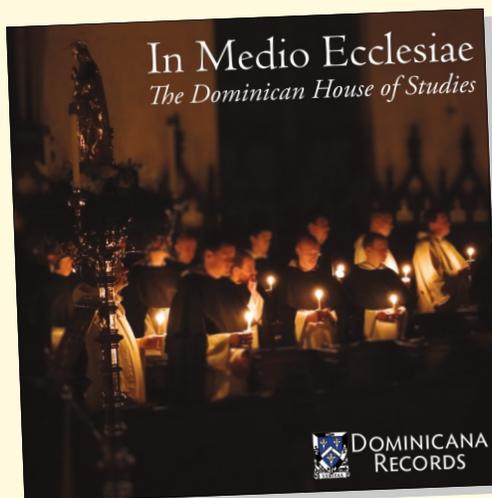


These are the results as of March 31, 2014, which are unaudited and do not include Rosary Sunday funds.

In Medio Ecclesiae

Through the direction of Fr. James Moore, OP, of the Western Dominican Province, and presented by the Dominican House of Studies Schola and the Friars of the Eastern Province of St. Joseph, *In Medio Ecclesiae* includes Dominican chant, Renaissance polyphony, Eastern chant, and new compositions and arrangements by Fr. James Moore, OP, and by Br. Vincent Ferrer Bagan, OP.

The album contains fifteen pieces, with seven works from the various liturgical seasons, three timeless hymns of rejoicing, three in honor of specific saints, and two in praise of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



In Medio Ecclesiae includes pieces dear to the heart of our liturgical tradition, from a polyphonic setting of St. Thomas Aquinas' *O sacrum convivium* to the chant for St. Dominic's feast day, *In medio ecclesiae*; in addition to a variety of other pieces both simple and complex.

Created and produced by the talents of Dominican brothers and professionally mastered, the album is an offering from our fraternal life to the life of the world.

It is available online through many fine digital distributors.

Books Around the Province



Catherine of Siena Institute

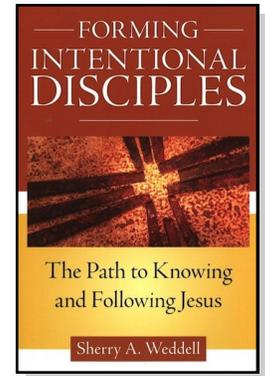
Equipping Parishes to Form Lay Apostles

Dominican Ministry Advancing the Conversation on Evangelization

The success of *Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus*, has been phenomenal. Sherry Weddell, the book's author and the Director of the Catherine of Siena Institute - a ministry of the Western Dominican Province - says that the book seems to be changing the conversation about evangelization, particularly in parishes and dioceses. Over 56,000 copies of *Forming Intentional Disciples* have sold, making it a North American best-seller. Catholic groups, bishops, dioceses and parishes are now adopting the language of Intentional Discipleship in their literature, mission statements, and leadership formation. This popularity has increased the number of requests received by the Catherine of Siena Institute, for workshops, training, and resources, by a threefold factor!

The Catherine of Siena Institute has been equipping parishes for the evangelization and formation of lay Catholics for the sake of their mission in the world since 1997. The Institute provides innovative and faithful programs, resources, and leadership training that enables parishes to become dynamic centers of lay discipleship, formation, and mission. CSI also assists individuals who are seeking to discern their personal charisms.

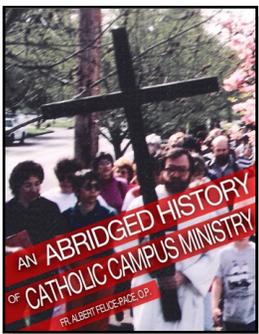
To obtain a copy of *Forming Intentional Disciples*, or to find out more about the work of the Catherine of Siena Institute, please visit the CSI website at www.siena.org.



An Abridged History of Catholic Campus Ministry

By Fr. Albert Felice-Pace, OP

A Review by Fr. James D. Thompson, OP



When I first heard that this book was available, I procured a copy and read it avidly. It did not disappoint. While others have compiled histories of the "Newman Movement," Fr. Albert Felice-Pace's *Abridged History* gives a concise overview of the development of Catholic campus ministry in just under sixty pages. This alone makes it deserving of a place in every Newman Center's library. At the same time, Fr. Albert intersperses his own experiences throughout the book, which adds a personal dimension that is sure to engage campus ministers, whether they are new to the ministry or have been at it for many decades.

Fr. Albert provides a handy list of abbreviations as an appendix, which helps to keep track of all the acronyms identifying the various organizations mentioned throughout his narrative. *An Abridged History of Catholic Campus Ministry* also includes a bibliography (abridged, of course!), as well as appendices giving chronologies of CCMA executive chairs, CCMA national convention locations, and five CCMA Catholic Campus Ministry Association Rewards.

To me, one of the tragedies of recent years is an increasing ignorance of the history of those very institutions we hold dear and yet argue so fiercely about. Fr. Albert has done a great service to Catholic campus ministers by providing a quick and painless way to remove this ignorance of our own history. Though the students and the institutions have changed over the years, Fr. Albert's experience shows that the basic peculiarities of this highly specialized ministry remain the same.

To purchase a copy of this book, send a check for \$14.00 (\$10.00 for the copy and \$4.00 for shipping and handling), payable to *Catholic Newman Club*, to this address:

**St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Newman Center
4765 Brussels Street,
Las Vegas, NV 89119**

*Proceeds will go towards the building fund of
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Newman Center in Las Vegas*

Fathers Anselm Ramelow, OP, John Mellein, OP, Raphael Mary Salzillo, OP, and Justin Gable, OP; and is supported by Fathers Michael Sweeney, OP, and Chris Renz, OP. “This series will offer a prime opportunity for our Province, from the most seasoned scholars to our newest student brothers, to enter into the conversations that shape our society in the long term, to learn from them and contribute to them. We should be part of those conversations, so that the Gospel may be heard in them.” Fr. Kromholtz indicated that this colloquium is a natural extension of the DSPT’s mission. “Our Province, particularly through the DSPT, is uniquely positioned in the Western United States, and maybe even in the Order, to host this conversation. It is no accident that the words ‘philosophy’ and ‘theology’ appear in the name of our school. Bringing the two fields together, without confusing them, is what we do.”

Fr. Kromholtz notes that this is not a novel concern in the history of the Church. “Theologians have seen the importance of philosophy for many centuries. So, for example, it has been a requirement for seminarians that they study philosophy before theology. But well before the seminary system was established in the wake of the Council of Trent, Dominicans, along with many others in the Church, engaged philosophical questions passionately.” Why? “If theology is a thoughtful

expression of the faith, then that expression must be presented according to some form of thought, which always presupposes some kind of philosophy, even if only implicitly.” He said that theologians need to know the strengths and weaknesses of these forms of thought, so that they “can speak the truth of the faith today,

clearly and without confusion or compromise.” He added, “Of course, by extension, that is true for every preacher, as well.”

But it is not just theology that benefits from the interaction between the two fields. “Pope John Paul II, in his [1998] encyclical *Fides et Ratio*, stated that theology can help point philosophy toward new and unsuspected horizons; it can help keep philosophy from becoming too narrow.”

The philosophers and theologians coming to participate in the colloquium include John Searle from the University of California at Berkeley, Michael Dodds, OP, from DSPT, as well as Edward Feser (Pasadena City College, Pasadena, California), Alfred Freddoso and John O’Callaghan (University of Notre Dame), Michał Paluch, OP (Dominican House of Studies, Krakow, Poland), Robert Sokolowski (Catholic University of America), and Linda Zagzebski (University of Oklahoma).

Theologians need to know the strengths and weaknesses of these forms of thought, so that they can speak the truth of the faith today, clearly and without confusion or compromise.

Dominican Colloquia in Berkeley

Philosophers and Theologians in Conversation

For details and registration information, please visit:

www.dspt.edu/conversation2014



When You Come to the Fork in the Road, Take It!

By Fr. Bryan Kromholtz, OP

THE MISSION STATEMENT of the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology (DSPT) states that “the School draws its students into the rich tradition of classical philosophy and Catholic theology, especially as exemplified by St. Thomas Aquinas, and from this tradition engages contemporary scholarship and culture in mutual enrichment.” Why should the work of St. Thomas Aquinas be of interest to us today? Why does DSPT take St. Thomas as a model?

First, let us consider the situation today. There have been great advancements in knowledge, particularly knowledge of the natural world; even a proliferation in the *kinds* of knowledge available (think of nuclear physics or genetics, to take some obvious examples). No one can master all of it. In fact, no one can master even a large minority of this knowledge. Thus, this great explosion of knowledge leads inevitably to a kind of fragmentation.

Yet every human person naturally wants to understand all of this at a more fundamental level. How do all of these pieces fit together? Where do they come from, and what is their purpose? Fundamentally, these are questions of *philosophy*, questions that none of the particular forms of natural science is equipped to answer. Those engaged in philosophy recognize that, throughout history, people have turned to religion and faith when pondering these questions. And it is in *theology* that the answers which faith has to offer are most clearly and extensively expressed.

Now in the West, at least, there is a classic answer to these questions: *God* is the meaning, source, and end of all. Revealed, Christian faith in particular sees Jesus Christ as the ultimate answer – an answer that remains compelling, mysterious, and humbling. Persons of faith, then, have a kind of gift of intuition into these ultimate questions, and they usually begin with this intuition before engaging in the rigorous study of it. When we try to make sense of that intuition, in a reflection that is coherent and disciplined, the intuition of faith matures into *theology*. We then ask (and are asked), how this faith fits together with all of our natural, “scientific” knowledge of the world. For both of these kinds of questions – the inner coherence of faith and its correspondence with other kinds of knowledge – we require some kind of *philosophy*. That is because we always employ human ways of thinking whenever we do theology, even if we believe that such thinking may be divinely assisted.



So, there are these two paths toward a unity of knowledge: one path, philosophy, coming from countless forms of human inquiry and research, and the other path, theology, coming from the deep insights of faith. Each of these paths leads to the other. The meeting point, the intersection of those paths, is precisely where we can glimpse an overarching view of the whole, and this intersection allows each discipline to get a better bearing on its own field of inquiry. In this life, neither discipline provides a view that is exhaustive or omniscient. Even the intersection between the two is only a point along the way – but all roads to wisdom must at least pass through it.

This is why Yogi Berra’s paradoxical advice, playfully given as the title to this piece, is in fact surprisingly apt here: it is the very *intersection* between philosophy and theology, this “fork in the road,” that we must consider carefully.

This is precisely where St. Thomas Aquinas is a model for us. St. Thomas studied the latest philosophical developments of his day, critically examining them and integrating their best insights with the faith tradition that he had received. In this, he arrived at a new yet faithful articulation of Christian belief. This is exactly what we at the DSPT seek to do today: it is why we are a school of both philosophy and theology, where the interrelationship between the two disciplines can be explored (without fusing or confusing the two) and why we seek to be informed by lay leaders in diverse disciplines at our annual Convocation of the College of Fellows. This is also why DSPT is hosting a Colloquium – quite literally, a conversation – on the topic of the intersection of philosophy and theology, this summer (“What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?” July 16 - 20, 2014). In fact, the Colloquium itself is structured to foster such conversation between philosophy and theology: each philosopher giving a presentation is paired with a theologian who will offer a response on the same topic. Certainly, conversing intelligently at this intersection is difficult and daunting, for it is not always easy to translate between the languages of philosophy and theology! For this reason, we unhesitatingly invite others to join us at this intersection, where St. Thomas dedicated his life, to help us to meet the challenges we face today in pursuing the path toward wisdom.

CONGRATULATIONS



To the Good People of St. Dominic Parish in Eagle Rock

CONGRATULATIONS! It is our great pleasure to announce that St. Dominic Parish in Los Angeles is the first ministry to reach (and exceed) their campaign goal, and has completed their part of the Mission West Campaign for Dominican Friars! Thank you, parishioners of St. Dominic, for your dedication, your hard work, and your ability to meet the goal set for you. Fr. Rogers has spoken proudly of your efforts, and of the support given by his Dominican brothers in Eagle Rock; the special events and dinners, the fundraisers, and the eager participation of the whole parish in accomplishing this milestone. You should know how deeply grateful we are for your generous response to the Mission West Campaign. You have not only finished first, you are demonstrating to other parishes the best path to take in their own fundraising efforts, and you are proving to be a great inspiration to them.

Please know that we are putting your gifts to good use, to relieve the debt the Province incurred on the purchase and refurbishing of the facilities for the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology; to form our student brothers as they study for ordination; and to help us care for the sick and elderly of the Province, who will be praying for you with grateful hearts! Thank you, the good parishioners of St. Dominic's. You are tremendous people, God bless you, and for heaven's sake, take a bow! You have finished ahead of us all!

Fr. Daniel Syverstad, OP
Director of Development

Presbyteral Ordinations - May 31, 2014

The Dominican Friars of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus cordially invite you to come celebrate the Presbyteral Ordinations of

Br. Justin Charles Gable, OP, and Br. Peter Junipero Hannah, OP,
on May 31, 2014 at 10:00 AM.

Ordinations will be held in beautiful St. Dominic's Catholic Church in San Francisco,
at 2390 Bush Street, San Francisco, California.

Thank you for your many years of prayer and support,
which have helped to make this joyous occasion possible!



Br. Justin Charles Gable, OP



Br. Peter Junipero Hannah, OP



St. Dominic Church, San Francisco

For more information or to RSVP, please visit sap.opwest.org/ordinations2014.

I Prayed for You in the Holy Land!

The Holy Land is an inspiring place to visit, and provides a unique opportunity for one to come face to face with the earliest history of our Catholic faith.

It's deeply moving to visit the same places where Jesus walked during his earthly ministry!

While recently traveling to the Holy Land, I took with me a list of all the friends of the Province, and prayed for you during Holy Week at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Mount of Olives, and Calvary (Golgotha). I asked God to watch over you and your loved ones, and to hear the prayers of your heart.

I also had the opportunity to visit a Dominican ministry in Jerusalem, the École Biblique. Founded by Dominicans in 1890, the École Biblique is an internationally renowned center which specializes in archeology and Biblical exegesis (interpretation). It has made numerous contributions to our understanding of scripture, and produced the Jerusalem Bible. It was impressive!

May you be filled with joy in our Risen Lord!

Always in Christ,

Fr. Mark Padrez, OP
Prior Provincial

POST CARD



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