



# MISSION WEST

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

## DOMINICANS BUILD FOR THE FUTURE

Your generosity helps us strengthen the faith of the next generation



- ✦ Newman Center in Seattle to Expand
- ✦ Dominicans Walk for Life
- ✦ Louise's Famous Yard Sales





## THE QUOTABLE DOMINICAN

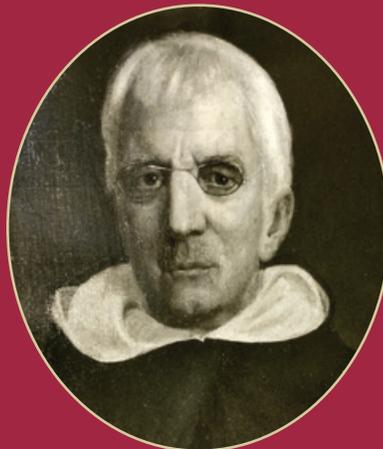
### St. Margaret of Hungary

Feast: January 18

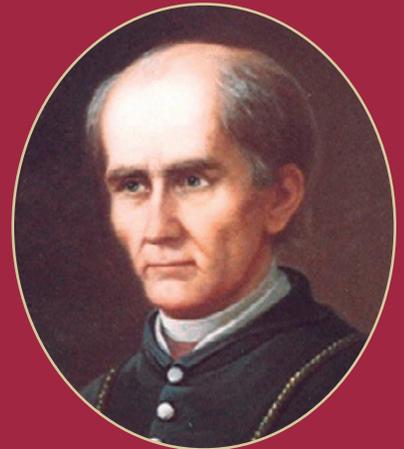
“Many of the people who look forward to a long life put off doing good works, since they think that they will have plenty of time before they die. As for me, I prefer to be among those who consider that they have no time to lose if they wish to give God all the glory that they can before they die.”

— St. Margaret of Hungary

## DID YOU KNOW?



Fr. Francis Sadoc  
Vilarrasa, O.P.



Fr. Joseph Sadoc  
Alemany, O.P.

The two “Founding Fathers” of the Western Dominican Province happened to take the same religious name. Fr. Joseph Sadoc Alemany, O.P., and Fr. Francis Sadoc Vilarrasa, O.P., were both from Spain and both inspired by Bl. Sadoc, the 13th century Dominican Polish martyr. Alemany, as Bishop of Monterey, and Vilarrasa officially established the Western Dominican Province in 1851, after arriving in California. Our connection to Poland continues today through an exchange program, with a number of Polish Dominicans currently studying and serving throughout the Province.

## from the vicar provincial for advancement



Dear Friend of St. Dominic,

Did you know the largest denomination of Christians in the United States is Catholic Christians? However, if “ex-Catholic” were a denomination, it would be the *second* largest.\*

Though many who leave the faith go to Evangelical Christian denominations, an increasing number simply self-identify as “none.” Pew calls these people “the religious nones.” Indeed, the “nones” is one of the fastest growing religious populations in the United States. This is a tragedy we have to address.

Interestingly, 80% of those who leave the Catholic faith do so during college. If we want to stop this trend, if we want to stop the growth of the “religious nones,” and if we want to empower young adults to embrace their Catholic faith as their own, then we need an effective solution that helps young Catholics become intentional disciples of Christ. Thankfully, we already have a big part of the solution: great Catholic campus ministry.

According to Georgetown University, 81% of young adults who participate in a Catholic campus ministry remain actively Catholic for life. Wow! We’ve now completely reversed the statistics! The challenge today is making sure our campus ministries have the resources they need to reach every soul on campus. That’s a daunting challenge, but thanks to friends like you, we’re making great progress.

Here in the Western Dominican Province, we are blessed to serve in campus ministries at the University of Arizona, the University of Nevada Las Vegas, Thomas Aquinas College, Occidental College, Stanford University, the University of Oregon, the University of Utah, and the University of Washington.

In this edition of the newsletter, we’ve highlighted a big expansion effort of our campus ministry at the University of Washington. When you read about their success, I hope you know that your prayers and generosity are helping us reverse the devastating trend of young people leaving the Catholic faith. This is the New Evangelization—and your support—in action!

In Christ and St. Dominic,

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

*\*Pew Research Center*

**Cover Photo:** Fr. Jordan and students from the Prince of Peace Catholic Newman Center at the University of Washington, which is now preparing for a \$5m expansion of the facility. The addition will double the usable space, creating new meeting rooms, classrooms, a larger kitchen, and a bigger chapel for the 1,000 students and community members currently being served.

# Dominicans to Expand Catholic Newman Center at the University of Washington

Thanks to friends like you, \$4.2m of the \$5m goal has already been raised

**F**ounded in 1908, the Prince of Peace Catholic Newman Center has served the University of Washington community for over 100 years. It's the fifth oldest Newman Center in the country, and the very first run by Dominicans.

But it wasn't until its new chapel was built on the edge of the campus in 2001 that its growth really accelerated. After just 17 years, the Newman Center has already outgrown its "new" facility and is preparing for a \$5 million expansion—and a dynamic future serving young Catholics at the University of Washington.

"Our current facility is too small to meet the demands of our programs," states Fr. Jordan Bradshaw, O.P., the current Director of the Newman Center. "I truly believe this expansion will help us meet the needs of all the students who come through our doors. What a problem to have!"

In the least-churched region of the country, the Newman Center stands as a tangible symbol of the Catholic faith at the University of Washington. Over the years, it has served as a spiritual home for cradle and convert Catholics in the university community. It has inspired and educated tens of thousands of undergraduate and graduate students, many of whom moved on to become leaders in the Church, in business and education, and in communities throughout the Puget Sound region and beyond.

Serving more than 1,000 Catholic students, faculty and staff each year, the Newman Center's mission is to "form the future leaders of our Church and the world," and strives to complement the secular education of the University of Washington with Catholic values, discipleship and outreach.

That mission is needed now more than ever. Research has suggested that about 80% of Catholics who leave the faith do so during their college years. However, student participation in a Catholic campus ministry—such as a Newman Center—flips that statistic, with 81% of students remaining actively Catholic for life. Students are even more likely to volunteer, tithe and consider a vocation.

The current campaign will nearly double the center's space from 9,719 to 14,667 square feet. It will include an enlarged chapel and offices, as well as new meeting rooms and classrooms. The expansion will continue to make the Newman Center a hub of Catholic activity in the Seattle region.

To learn more or make a gift, please contact Dayn Warren, Director of Development at the Prince of Peace Newman Center at [dayn@uwnewman.org](mailto:dayn@uwnewman.org) or (206) 527-5072.



Tabling on campus is a big part of the Newman Center's evangelization work. Students regularly set up shop in major thoroughfares of the university, personally engaging students and inviting them to learn more about the Catholic faith.



*“I have been continuously impressed by the Newman Center and its unique mission. At such a critical stage in the faith development of young men and women, it is absolutely necessary that the Church is present with the Word of God and the Sacraments to strengthen and guide them. It is also important that the Church play a part in the social, emotional and educational growth of students. The Newman Center at UW does all of this.” —Archbishop J. Peter Sartain*



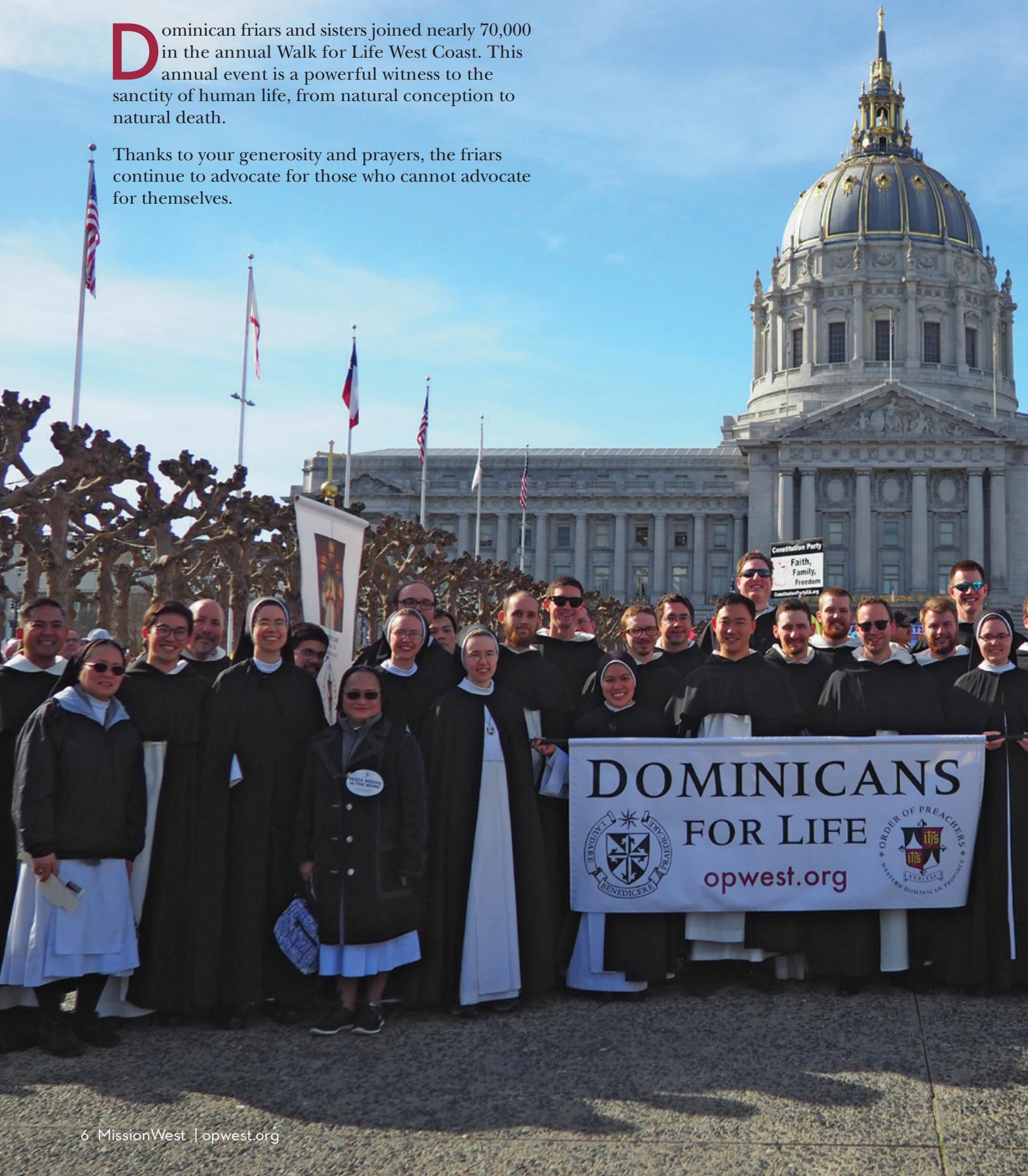
This image shows what the Newman Center’s redesigned main entrance will look like. The two-story glass structure behind it is the expanded building, which will house more work and social spaces for students.

# Dominicans Walk for Life

Thank you for helping us stand up for the vulnerable and unborn

**D**ominican friars and sisters joined nearly 70,000 in the annual Walk for Life West Coast. This annual event is a powerful witness to the sanctity of human life, from natural conception to natural death.

Thanks to your generosity and prayers, the friars continue to advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves.



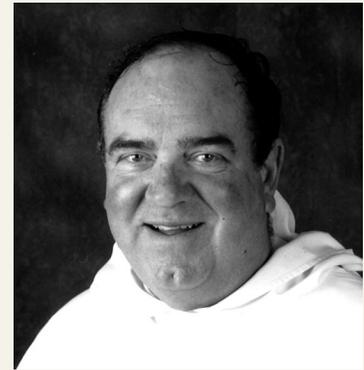


(below) Dominican Friars and Sisters pose outside San Francisco City Hall, the start of the Walk for Life. (right) The Walk for Life is a joyful time with friends, working to protect the dignity of human life. Thank you for supporting our efforts to preach the truth rooted in love!



## Fr. Patrick LaBelle, O.P.

A bold personality for a life of faith



Fr. Patrick LaBelle, O.P.  
1939-2017

**B**orn in 1939, Leo LaBelle was a native of Vallejo, CA. He attended St. Vincent Ferrer grammar and high schools, and St. Mary’s College in Moraga. He received the habit and his religious name, Patrick, in 1959, made his First Profession in 1960, and was ordained a priest in 1965. Fr. Patrick was 78 when he passed away on December 11, 2017.

During his life as a Dominican, Fr. Patrick was a leader, and served at several ministries around the Province, including two terms as the President of the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology. He had a special zeal for serving college students and young adults, and it was this passion that led him to the University of Oregon, the University of Washington and Stanford University. He also served as the Dean of Students at St. Mary’s College.

Fr. Patrick was a mentor, a friend and dedicated Dominican. He always seemed to know exactly how to build someone up in Christ and many souls were touched by his ministry. He was a true son of Saint Dominic.

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

## A Profile in Generosity: Louise and +Eugene Stepzinski

### Devoted Members of the Dominican Family

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

I was born in Oakland in 1934 and like to say I'm now 48 backwards!

I met my husband, Eugene "Ski" at a USO dance. He was in the Navy. I was 22 when we met, and we got married a short time later in 1956. We were married for over 60 years.

Our family lived in Grants Pass (Oregon) for a time, until we decided to move up river to McKenzie Bridge. That's where we met the Dominicans at St. Benedict's Lodge—their nearby retreat center and chapel. They were immediately like family to us.

#### Your yard sales in support of the Dominicans have become famous. Why did you hold them?

The yard sales were a lot of work, but I really enjoyed them. You would meet so many wonderful people. I held them



Fr. Mark Padrez, O.P., and Louise at an event in McKenzie Bridge, OR. Louise and Eugene, her late husband, considered the Dominicans part of their family, always offering to help and remembering them in prayer.

because I just wanted to do something to support the Dominicans. They had done so much for us over the years. It's also why I've remembered them in my estate. The Dominicans are a part of my family. I want to help them since they've helped me so much. It's that simple.

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

They are holy and they pray for me. They treated us like family. I really enjoyed praying together, eating together after Sunday Mass and talking. Eugene would enjoy going over and helping them fix lights and just about anything around the property. They're wonderful.

#### What advice would you give a young man discerning a vocation with the Dominicans?

It will be wonderful! It'll change you for the better and encourage you to do better in your life. If you're afraid, just talk to the man in charge—God. Everything will be OK.

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

They're praying for everybody. The world is one big mess and everyone needs more prayers.

#### What do you hope the Dominicans will do in the future?

The same thing they're doing now: making the world a better place.



Louise is famous for holding annual yard sales to raise money for the Dominicans and their ministry at St. Benedict's Lodge in McKenzie Bridge, OR. No longer able to run the yard sales, Louise continues to pray for the friars and has generously remembered them in her estate.

Visit [opwest.org/donate](https://opwest.org/donate) to learn more about how you can help the Dominicans.

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

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