



MISSION WEST

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

PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP

Bishop Maekawa embarks on his new mission as Bishop of Fairbanks



**A DOMINICAN
BISHOP**

- ✦ The Beauty of Alaska
- ✦ Two Dominicans Ordained Deacons
- ✦ Italy in the Footsteps of Aquinas

A DOMINICAN BISHOP



Bishop Steven J. Maekawa's coat of arms.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know a bishop's shield is layered with meaning? Recently-ordained Bishop Steven Maekawa's shield is to the left.

The left side of the shield represents the coat of arms of the Diocese of Fairbanks. In the lower quadrant, the North Star hovers over the white mountains of Alaska. In the upper quadrant, between two red roses on a field of gold, is the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the titular symbol of the Cathedral of the diocese. The red roses which flank the Sacred Heart represent St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the patroness of the Alaska Missions, and recall her promise: "After my death, I will let fall a shower of roses."

The right side of the shield represents Bishop Maekawa's personal coat of arms. The upper quadrant holds the crest of the Order of Preachers. The waves on the bottom represent both the waters of baptism and the bishop's family name, "Maekawa," which means "before the river." The episcopal motto "Duc in Altum" is Latin for Jesus' command to the Apostle Peter: "Put out into the deep" (Luke 5:4), which is an apropos motto for ministry in the Last Frontier.

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

Celebrations of Aquinas' triple jubilee continue! This year marks the 700th anniversary of the canonization of Aquinas. In 2024, we commemorate the 750th jubilee of Aquinas' death, and in 2025, we commemorate the 800th anniversary of his birth!

"It is the nature of love that it transforms the one loving into the thing loved. So, if we love God, we become divine."



An End, but Not Goodbye



Dear Friends in Christ and St. Dominic,

It was a powerful moment witnessing newly-ordained Bishop Steven Maekawa, O.P., mitre atop his head and crozier in his hand; now a successor of the apostles and the head of the church in Fairbanks. Bishop Maekawa is one of three bishops in our Province's history, after Archbishop Alemany and Bishop Robert Christian.

Bishop Maekawa now inherits the largest territorial Diocese in the USA, with 46 parishes—of which only nine can be reached by road. It is a task that Bishop Maekawa is uniquely suited for after seven years as Pastor in Anchorage.

As Pastor, then-Fr. Steve expanded our mission from Anchorage across the state of Alaska. Our Brothers brave dark and dangerous roads to bring the light of Christ in the Eucharist to far-flung communities and parishes, including Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian Islands (the furthest west in the U.S.) and Barrow on the Arctic Ocean (the furthest north in the U.S.).

Soon after I was appointed as Vicar Provincial for Advancement, I was sent to Anchorage to thank our generous supporters. I'm a Californian, but there was something that grabbed my heart about the land of Alaska. **It was to my great joy when our provincial nominated me to succeed Bishop Maekawa as Pastor of Holy Family!**

As such, this is my last letter to you as Vicar Provincial for Advancement, but by no means will I be a stranger. I'll be around, continuing to support our Province and doing what I've always done: preach for the salvation of souls! Please pray for me as I enter this new phase of my priesthood and pray for the people of Alaska.

I'd be remiss if I didn't end this letter with an earnest request for your continued generosity: ***please continue to support the Western Dominican Province financially and spiritually!***

The Dominicans are called to bravely proclaim the Truth. God's grace and your generosity make that possible! THANK YOU for your support these past seven years! Together, we'll continue to help form the future Saints of the Church!

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever!

¡¡Adelante!!

Rev. James Junipero Moore, O.P.
Pastor, Holy Family Old Cathedral—Anchorage, Alaska

Cover Photo: Bishop Maekawa is flanked by his Dominican brothers, who joyfully witnessed his consecration as Bishop of Fairbanks. See full photo on pages 10-11.

Dominican Steven Maekawa, O.P., Made Bishop of Fairbanks

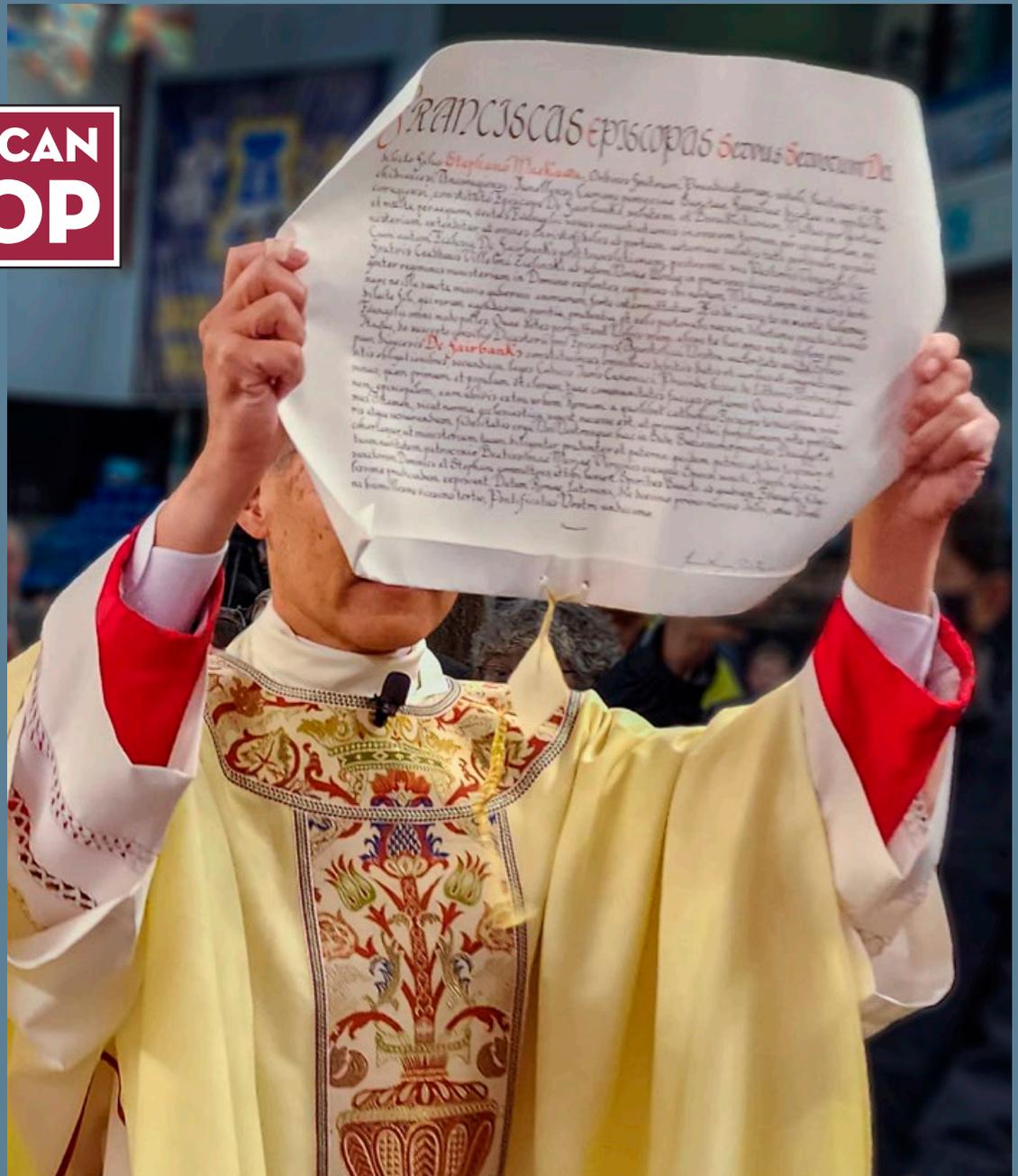
Thanks to your support, Dominicans serve at every level of the Church

On October 12, Steven Maekawa, O.P., one of our own Western Dominican Province friars, was ordained Bishop of Fairbanks, Alaska. He received the laying on of hands from Andrew E. Bellisario, C.M., Archbishop of Anchorage-Juneau; Bishop Chad W. Zielinski, Bishop of New Ulm; and Bishop Michael C. Barber, Bishop of Oakland.

In his new role, Bishop Maekawa is undertaking a challenging pastoral responsibility. The Diocese of Fairbanks is the largest diocese in the United States by land mass, with many locations only accessible via plane, boat, or off-road vehicle.

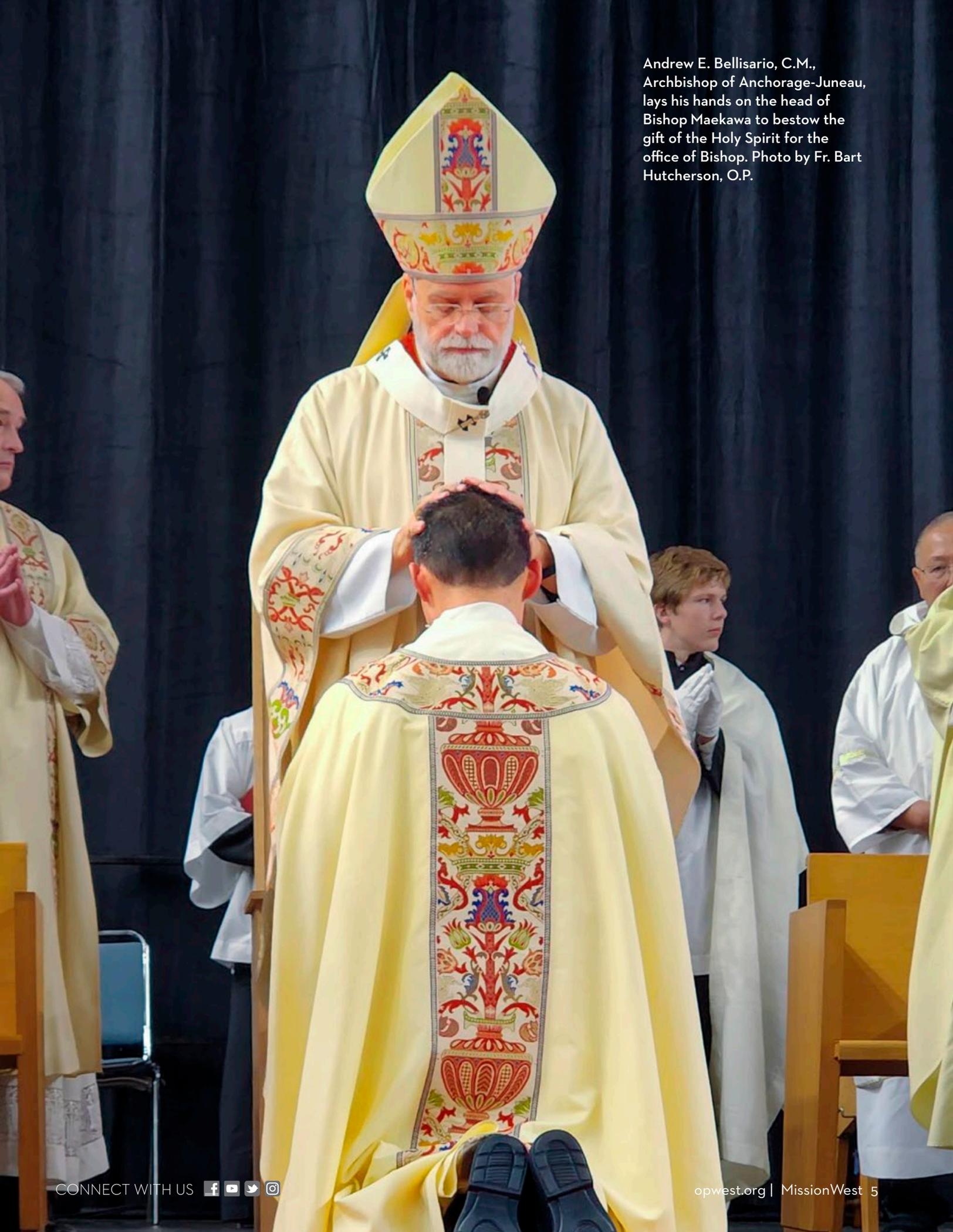
Please continue to pray for Bishop Maekawa and his new ministry as he takes on Christ's command to the Apostle Peter, to "put out into the deep" (Luke 5:4).

**A DOMINICAN
BISHOP**



Bishop Maekawa presents the Apostolic Letter from the Holy Father to the congregation, which testifies to his worthiness to serve as Bishop. Photo by Fr. Bart Hutcherson, O.P.

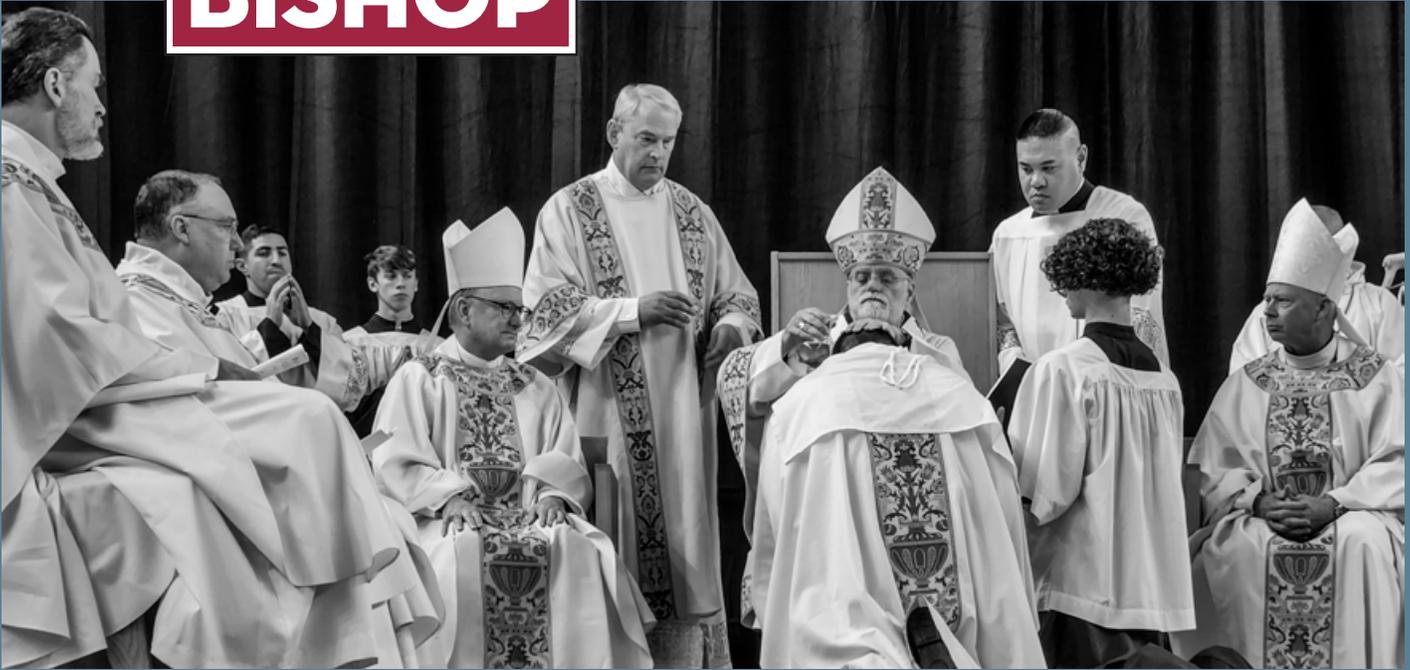
Andrew E. Bellisario, C.M.,
Archbishop of Anchorage-Juneau,
lays his hands on the head of
Bishop Maekawa to bestow the
gift of the Holy Spirit for the
office of Bishop. Photo by Fr. Bart
Hutcherson, O.P.



Bishop Maekawa kneels while the Book of the Gospels is held open over his head, as a reminder that preaching the Gospel is the foremost duty of Bishops. Photo by Fr. Bart Hutcherson, O.P.



A DOMINICAN BISHOP



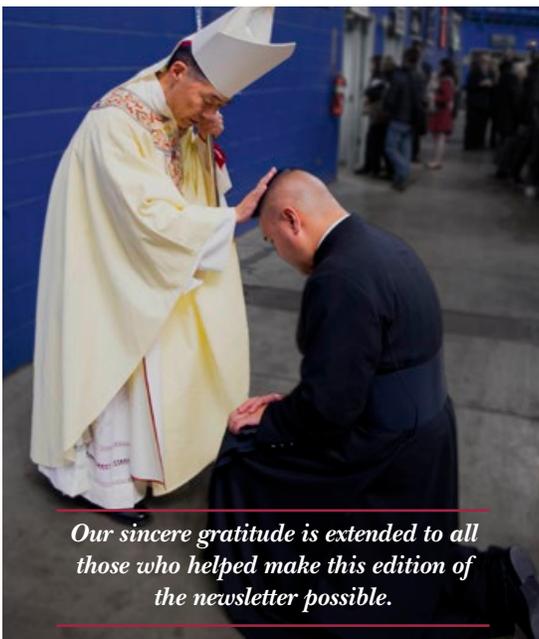
Archbishop Bellisario anoints Bishop Maekawa's head with sacred chrism oil to signify that he is consecrated for God's service. Photo by Fr. Bart Hutcherson, O.P.



Bishop Maekawa stands in front of his family, friends, and the congregation, presenting himself as a new bishop. Photo by Ryan Woods.

A DOMINICAN BISHOP

Bishop Maekawa celebrates with family and friends throughout the days surrounding his Ordination.



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





Give a gift today and help Bishop Maekawa acquire the supplies, liturgical items, and other things he needs to begin his ministry and support the people of his new diocese.

Visit opwest.org/Fairbanks

**A DOMINICAN
BISHOP**





The night before his episcopal ordination, Bishop-elect Maekawa was joined by his Dominican brothers for Vespers, the evening prayer of the Church. Photo by David Schienle.



St. Dominic’s Church in Eagle Rock Celebrates with Annual Carnival

Fr. Isaiah Mary Molano, O.P., reflects upon the celebrations

Almost anything can be an opportunity to share the Joy of Christ. Bonding over chicken adobo drumsticks or screaming atop a Ferris wheel is not an exception!

From September 29 through October 1, St. Dominic’s in Eagle Rock (Los Angeles) held its annual carnival. Not only was the carnival a way to celebrate our community, share good food, and, yes, raise funds for our school and parish; it was also an opportunity to reach out to the greater Eagle Rock community. Pastor Fr. Peter Rogers, O.P., commented, “I see all these children and families, and I don’t recognize so many of them. This is such a good outreach to the greater community. This is why our school’s principal, Tiffany Oluwanifise, sent information to the public elementary school behind us; why I sent tickets to the Lutherans next door. The carnival is a great way to gather the neighborhood.”



Fr. Peter Rogers, O.P., pastor of St. Dominic’s, with a parishioner.

Principal Oluwanifise commented, “What is special about last year’s and this year’s carnival is that we highlighted celebrating the centennials of our ministries in Eagle Rock. Last year, we concluded the centenary of St. Dominic’s Church, which included a Mass presided by Archbishop Jose Gomez, as well as the blessing of the Fr. Paul Scanlon Community Center on the southwest corner of the campus. This coming year, we celebrate the centenary of St. Dominic’s School, where we hope to gather alumni, friars, sisters, and past staffers for a series of events over the course of the next year.”

Our parish carnival began as a brainchild of Fr. Paul Scanlon, O.P., in 1996 who wanted to celebrate St. Dominic’s 75th Anniversary—a “fiesta” that would unite the parish and celebrate its cultural diversity: Filipino, Italian, Mexican, as well as other ethnicities. Discontinued after a few years, it was refounded under Fr. Raymond Finerty, O.P., in part to raise funds for the school and the church. It was then that we included the rides, rebranded the celebration as a “carnival,” and included other typical carnival elements. Today, the school and the church split the proceeds 50/50. Historically, the carnival raises over \$20,000 over the course of the weekend, which further aids the mission of St. Dominic’s to “Keep the Faith for the Next Century.”

—Very Rev. Isaiah Mary Molano, O.P.
Prior, St. Dominic’s, Los Angeles



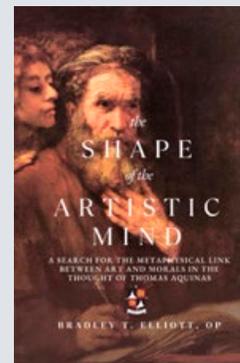
Fr. John Winkowitsch, O.P., who spent a year as a residency student brother at St. Dominic’s, attended the carnival and visited parishioners and old friends.



Fr. Peter (second from right), Principal Tiffany Oluwanifise (far right), and St. Dominic parishioners receive certificates of appreciation from Eagle Rock City Hall; given to the parish for their work upbuilding the Eagle Rock community.

FRIARS IN PRINT

Fr. Bradley T. Elliott, O.P.



The Shape of the Artistic Mind: A Search for the Metaphysical Link Between Art and Morals in the Thought of Thomas Aquinas

In his new book, Fr. Bradley shows that in creating art, man can imitate God, the Eternal Artist.

Italy in the Footsteps of Aquinas

Friars join friends of the Province on a pilgrimage through Italy

In September, friends of the Province joined friars on a pilgrimage through Italy in honor of the 700th anniversary of St. Thomas Aquinas' canonization. This pilgrimage traced the life and contributions of Aquinas across some of Italy's most inspiring holy sites.

Friars walk down a hill in Roccasecca, the birthplace of St. Thomas Aquinas.



Western Dominican Province friars celebrate Mass for the pilgrims in the crypt of Monte Cassino.



1224-1225: Aquinas was born in Roccasecca sometime between 1224 and 1225. Roccasecca houses a small mountain-top castle owned by the Angelic Doctor's family. Pilgrims began their journey in Roccasecca, enjoying sweeping views and the ruins of the family castle.



1230-1239: At the age of 5, Aquinas began his studies at Montecassino, the famous Benedictine Abbey, after which he entered the Order of Preachers in Naples.



1244-1245: Aquinas' family, after kidnapping him from the Dominican novitiate, imprisoned Aquinas in Monte San Giovanni Campano's castle to prevent him from joining the Dominicans. While he was imprisoned, his family even attempted to undermine his chastity, but he successfully resisted; two Angels girded him with a white cord representing his perpetual virginity. It was from this moment that the Angelic Warfare Confraternity traces its beginnings.

Pilgrims at Santa Sabina,
the headquarters of the
Order of Preachers in Rome.



1261-1265: Aquinas lived in Orvieto. In 1263, a famous Eucharistic miracle took place in Bolsena, a city near Orvieto, wherein a consecrated host began to bleed onto a corporal during Mass. The blood-stained corporal and host were brought to Pope Urban IV in Orvieto, who was inspired to institute the Feast of Corpus Christi. Pope Urban IV commissioned Aquinas to compose the Office and Mass for the new feast. Aquinas thus wrote his famous hymns, which include *O Solutaris Hostia*, *Panis Angelicus*, and *Pange Lingua*, which includes the *Tantum Ergo*.

1265-1267: Aquinas served as Master Regent in Rome and taught Dominican student brothers at Santa Sabina.

1272-1274: Aquinas returned to Naples, where he taught students and wrote his famous *Summa Theologiae*.

1274: Aquinas dies at the Cistercian monastery of Fossanova while on his way to the Second Council of Lyon.



OLD GLENN HIGHWAY BRIDGE

On a winter afternoon, snow quietly covers this disused bridge near Palmer, AK, on the Old Glenn Highway. Built as a car bridge over the Knik River, it is now open only to pedestrians. It's bridges and roads like this that the Dominicans cross regularly in their service to the remote communities of the Alaska. Photo by Fr. Bart Hutcherson, O.P.





Fr. Jordan Bradshaw, O.P., Director of the Dominican Mission Foundation, Visits Alaska Mission Territory

Last fall, the pastor of Holy Family Old Cathedral, then-Fr. Steven Maekawa, O.P., asked if I would be interested in coming to Alaska to celebrate and preach at the Christmas Masses for St. Theresa's Church. One of three remote mission churches in the diocesan parish of Holy Rosary based in Dillingham, this one serves the bush communities of King Salmon and Naknek—I jumped at the opportunity. I was soon to learn, however, that with Alaska and its vast, imposing terrain and extremes of weather, one must remain flexible.



Dominicans help bring Sacraments to remote areas of Alaska

Due to rugged, icy terrain and almost perpetually difficult weather, many outlying and isolated native settlements scattered throughout the state and up and down the Bering Sea coastline remain unconnected by roads and are physically isolated from the outside world except for an airfield or a boat landing. Even those communities that are on the road network are often hundreds of miles away from the next town. A few villages have Masses once a month but once a year has been the rule for most communities, and they feel quite abandoned by the Church.

Both the Archdiocese of Anchorage and the Diocese of Fairbanks have long had difficulty sending priests to these parishes on a regular basis. A few years ago, the friars of Holy Family Old Cathedral, with the permission of our Western Dominican Province, made a commitment to travel more regularly to some of these nearly-abandoned towns on a rotating basis. They also implemented a plan to encourage our friars stationed outside of Alaska to come and assist the parish in any of their free time, particularly during the busy Christmas and Easter seasons. Our commitment to bringing the sacraments of the Church to the people of Alaska has now radiated to the far reaches of the state, and the presence of a priest is always greatly anticipated and appreciated. Today, our Dominican priests try to make trips on a rotating basis to such “priestless” villages as Dutch Harbor/Unalaska, Trapper Creek, Talkeetna, and Glennallen.

During my first scheduled trip to King Salmon for St. Theresa’s Christmas services, the weather kept the plane grounded. Disappointed, I was at least able to assist my busy Dominican brothers in Anchorage with their Christmas Masses and extra duties, and for that I was grateful. Before leaving for Seattle, however, I was asked if I would return for St. Theresa’s Holy Week and Easter 2023, and I accepted the request immediately.

When I arrived at St. Theresa’s for Holy Week, I realized that my experience of the Triduum here would be markedly different—and in many ways disorienting—

from any in my 30 years as a priest. The churches where I have served as pastor or director of campus ministry have been much larger than St. Theresa’s. Six people attended the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Thursday, and while I did not have the traditional number of twelve people participating in the washing of feet, I did have twelve feet over which I could pour water! After, they all welcomed and thanked me for being with them this time of the year, without which they would, as usual, have had to miss out on the most important three days of the liturgical year; and their celebration of Easter Sunday itself would have been delayed two weeks while they waited for their turn with Fr. Scott.

The same six people returned on Good Friday to hear the Passion, kneel and venerate the cross, and receive Holy Communion. Fr. Scott had not scheduled an Easter Vigil on Saturday, so I decided I would celebrate it by myself and offer it for the people of St. Theresa’s. Alone, except for the fox who was always just outside, I blessed a small fire the size of a salad bowl, processed with the Easter Candle into the chapel, sang the “Exultet,” read and listened to myself retelling our salvation history, sang the “Gloria” (during which the fox ran off), blessed the water, and offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Eighteen faithful attended the Easter Sunday Mass to celebrate the Lord’s Resurrection, listening to the powerful readings, renewing baptismal promises, and being nourished with the beautiful gift of the Eucharist. I stayed after Mass to visit with the people I had met and thanked them for venturing out from their safe and cozy homes to welcome me and participate in their faith, a faith that they maintained and kept strong mostly by themselves.

In saying goodbye to them I had a silent hope that I would be returning sometime soon to help Fr. Scott once again.

In Christ’s peace,
Fr. Jordan Bradshaw, O.P.

FRIARS IN PRINT

Fr. Bart Hutcherson, O.P.



*For the Beauty
of the Earth:
Experiencing the
Glory of God in
the Wonders of the
49th State*

Fr. Bart's book contains a "visual sermon," pairing his images of Alaska with Scripture, poetry, and hymn lyrics. The book is available at frbart.com/alaska-book



THE HEAVENS ARE TELLING THE GLORY OF GOD!
The Aurora Borealis light up the spring sky above the Knik River and Matanuska Range of the Chugach Mountains.
Photo by Fr. Bart Hutcherson, O.P.

Consecrated in the Truth

Two Dominicans ordained to the Diaconate

Rev. Brs. Andrew Thomas Kang, O.P., and Matthew Wanner, O.P., were ordained to the Order of the Diaconate by the Most Reverend Thomas Daly, Bishop of Spokane, in September. Thanks be to God for these zealous Dominican preachers!

“Thanks be to Jesus Christ, who has ordained me a herald of his Gospel, a minister of his Precious Blood, and a servant of his people. It is hard to express the simultaneous feelings of joy at the Lord’s merciful call and the weight of this responsibility. Please pray for us that God make us worthy of the Gospel we bear.”

—Br. Andrew Thomas

“The process leading up to ordination has been a joy for Br. Andrew Thomas and I, and I am so grateful to Christ that I can now proclaim the Gospel, preach the sacred mysteries during the divine liturgy, and serve at the altar closer than ever to the consecrated hosts. As we prepare for our upcoming priestly ordination, my earnest prayer is that the Holy Spirit will fortify and elevate us as His consecrated vessels.”

—Br. Matthew



Newly ordained Rev. Brs. Matthew and Andrew Thomas stand with Bishop Thomas Daly; Fr. Stephen Maria, O.P., Student Master; and Fr. Christopher Fadok, O.P., Prior Provincial of the Western Dominican Province. Photos by Elle Oruido.

Thank You, Bishop Maekawa!

Across the Province, friends and friars express their gratitude for Bishop Maekawa and his ministry.

Fr. Chrysostom Mijinke, O.P., Western Dominican Province: I first reached out to then-Fr. Steve as a vocation candidate in January, 2013. I was eager to visit St. Albert's Priory outside of a normal vocation weekend, which he enabled. I immediately asked to apply to the Order. Most people would be told to wait until fall the following year, but Fr. Steve believed in me. I entered the novitiate in August that year, a few months after first meeting the Western brothers. Thank you, Bishop Maekawa, for seeing potential in me and bringing me into our blest Order of Preachers!

Mary Beth Braigel, Alaska: I have worked with Bishop Maekawa at both the Diocesan and parish levels. He is a blessing to the Church! As much as I hate to lose him in Anchorage (he's a great boss, too!), I am thrilled for the Church at large, because we need good Bishops.

Bob & Letha Flint, Alaska: It has been an honor to know and work with Bishop Maekawa over his seven years in Alaska, where he has already established a Dominican Catholic presence in several small communities. He is a gentle, humble, spiritual priest, who possesses the zeal of Saint Dominic for service to the remote missions of rural Alaska. They are blessed to have him as their shepherd.

Micah Shilanski, Alaska: Bishop Maekawa has dedicated himself to truly understanding the unique culture and landscape of Alaska. With the assistance of the Dominicans he played an instrumental role in bringing the sacraments to all of Alaska. Through his efforts, many Alaskans were able to connect with their faith in remote areas where spiritual guidance was previously hard to find. Spending time with Bishop Maekawa, one quickly realizes his deep, caring heart and genuine love for Jesus.

Fr. Thomas Aquinas Pickett, O.P., Western Dominican Province: When I first reached out to the Dominicans, Bishop Maekawa was the vocation director for the province. His enthusiasm for the Order, the Church, and my own personal journey with Christ was a great assurance during that uncertain period of my life. I am not only grateful for him, but I am confident that he will bring that same zeal to the people of Fairbanks.

Jim Hochstein, Seattle: I spent my formative years of faith at the welcoming community of the Newman Center at the University of Washington. In 2002, then-Fr. Steve began as the new Director of the Newman Center. I was, and still am, very grateful for his dedicated faith, his clear sermons, and his ability to meet people where they were. His Christ-like example of accepting an urgent call to service in Afghanistan, even though it was not his plan, still resonates with me today. Finally, I thank Bishop Maekawa for his friendship and support of my family by walking with my wife, Ivy, and me in our marriage and with our kids Chiara and Xavier (his godson). We are ever praying for you in your new role!

ANCHORAGE SUNSET

The waters of the Knik Arm of the Cook Inlet and the peaks of the Chugach Mountains beautifully frame downtown Anchorage and capture the colors of the setting sun in the late winter. Photo by Fr. Bart Hutcherson, O.P.