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| St Albert's | **EDINBURGH LAY DOMINICANS**  **LAY DOMINICAN ASSEMBLY**  **LEICESTER 17TH SEPTEMBER 2022** | The Dominican Friars |

**THE EDINBURGH FRATERNITY’S RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC**

**The Primary Impetus:**

A Fraternity of 17 active members, spread geographically mainly across the Central Belt of Scotland; also wider Scotland - the North, Northeast and Northwest; and, our Fraternity age profile has a relatively wide spread

How to maintain the four pillars of Dominican Spirituality operating throughout the pandemic and maintain and enrich the Fraternity spiritually and supportively

**Our Three Main Responses:**

**Our Tactic to Address the difficulties of the Pandemic: -**

All Fraternity and Council activities online throughout; and then moving to a hybrid approach

An initial period of 3-4 months to ensure the Fraternity were online as quickly and comprehensively as possible, with interim measures of telephone dial-ins into online technology, for ongoing fraternal community activity and setting up a WhatsApp group very quickly

**Maintaining Normal Operations: -**

Regular online monthly all day Saturday meetings: - St Thomas’s Summa (morning) and Pope Francis’s Encyclicals (afternoon); Sunday Scripture meeting using Lectio Divina (third Sunday each month); Lent and Advent One-Day Retreats

With Provincial Dispensation: an Online Perpetual Profession with our eldest Fraternity member, then 90 years old, the Religious Assistant, and the whole Fraternity

One Temporary Profession and two Final Professions in St Albert’s Chapel using a hybrid approach of in-person for those being Professed, the President, the Religious Assistant, and a small number of family members and friends attending; and with the Fraternity online

**Apostolate and Mission Focused: -**

Series of seven-weekly talks on The Dominican Saints across June / July 2020, with St Albert’s parishioners invited, circa 30 attendees on average per presentation

Series of eight historical talks on the Development of the English Province as part of the Province’s 800th Jubilee celebrations; launched by Fr Richard Finn from Blackfriars, Oxford. Promoted also via the Provincial website, June to early September 2021. St Albert’s parishioners and Lay Dominicans from other Fraternities attended, circa 25 attendees on average per presentation