



Veritas Autumn Issue September 2025

The Lay Dominicans of England, Scotland
and Wales

In this Jubilee year we have a lot to be thankful for. We have a new Pope spreading the message of peace, communion and compassion. Our friars are experiencing a surge in vocations and we Lay Dominicans have been blessed in new groups forming and a rise in admissions and professions. It seems the Holy Spirit is busy at work, walking with us on our pilgrimage of hope and self-transformation.

“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope”

(1 Peter 3:15)

In this edition, we will hear how Lay Dominicans live out their vocation, made visible, through their encounters and reflections of pilgrimage and hope.

My Vocation as a Lay Dominican – Who I am and What I Do

Becoming a Lay Dominican required a great deal of thought in order for me to understand what it meant. From the start I saw it as a Vocation, a specific calling from God but in order to respond I needed to decide who and what I was and

what I could do. The Dominican Life is based upon Four Pillars that I am going to list in the order Community, Study, Prayer and Work and each of these needed to be considered in turn.

I am a convert and I was received into the Church by Herbert McCabe. I am rather proud of that. I once heard him say, during a homily, that the point of the Friars' Community Life was to demonstrate if they could live together without killing each other the laity in general should be doing a much better job of getting with each other than we were doing. I am a Lay Dominican and so part of the Laity but I take a lead from the Friars and Sisters. Obviously, I can regard myself as part of the Dominican Family and describe my fellows as brothers and sisters but what exactly does that mean? I have two siblings but while neither of them counts as Best Friends they are special. If they have problems, I am there for them. I just am. Surely that is what Family means? Unfortunately, it is not always that simple and too often people just don't bother trying. I had no choice about being an Owens and had to make the most of what I was lumbered with. On the other hand, I actively went out of my way to become a Dominican so I must go out of my way to get to know and support this extra Family. Do I succeed perfectly? – of course not, but I do at least try. I cannot honestly say that I have never met a Dominican that I did not like but then I must insist that I have never met a Dominican that did not repay the effort I made to know them better. I hope that Herbert would be satisfied with that.

Study is both the easiest and the most difficult pillar. People who are drawn to the Order are usually the ones who were described as “academic” at school. I

understand that the actress Emilia Clarke was advised not to trust anyone with a television bigger than their bookcase. Would-be Dominicans do not need to be told this. The point is, being a Lay Dominican is more than joining a book club. (Although the history of our dear Brothers and Sisters in the Tamar Fraternity prove it is a possible start.) Our study needs to have a point. I learned to read using a scheme called Reading to Some Purpose. I think that makes a good, extra motto for the order. Our studies need to have applications.

Prayer really is, in fact, the easy one. A drowning man we are told has no difficulty praying and even though I am comfortably retired, Lay Life regularly feels like drowning. I was once told, by yet another Dominican, that “if all you can do is pray don’t think that is all you are doing”. I continue to meditate on this but the basic idea that prayer must be more than empty wishes seems clear. The complication comes when prayer blurs with the would-be beauty queen whose ambition is to Work for World Peace. The question must be asked: what am I doing as well as praying? This brings me to Work.

An AI search of the Four Pillars gave Work as “Service”. It is more usually described as Preaching. We are, after all, the Order of Preachers. But preaching as it is generally understood, is associated with priests rather than the Laity. To be honest I prefer the word Mission but Work is more ‘everyday’ and so more appropriate to the Laity. I was once on the borderline of a very unpleasant argument between two groups in a Baptist church. My group regarded the others as “Pew-warmers”. All our opponents expected to do was sing hymns, be inspired by the sermon and put

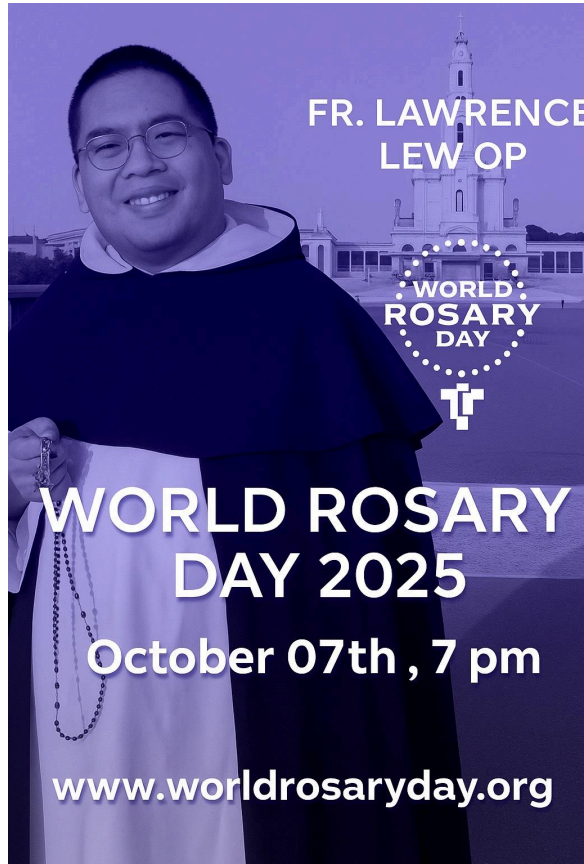
cash in the collection. But someone, other than the stipended clergy, had to do the preparation. My spokesperson was described as the sort of Christian who goes around with a bible in one hand and a brush in the other. As my friend said, he thought it was intended as an insult. I am terrible at sitting still so could not be a pew-warmer if Gabriel flew in with a written message from God telling me it was my Vocation. It would be my Calvary. I cannot therefore claim any moral superiority for not being one. There are so many jobs to be done in the Church from Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister to the dusting by way of helping with the music, readings and prayers and of course flower-arranging. Then there are the often-over-looked acts of visiting and supporting friends whether they are in need or not. The Tamar Group include various chaplaincies in their Mission and at Christmas invite late-night shoppers to have a short break in a town centre church and say a prayer and light a candle. Tamar is very special but they have been blessed with both an inclination to Service plus opportunities to carry this out. Opportunities are available for us all, whether it is within our Church, our Family or our Employment.

As St Matthew points out “by their Works they (the Lay Dominicans) shall be known”.

The purpose of my Formation was to understand myself better. I then realised why, when I decided to become a Catholic, a friend of mine who knew me rather well insisted on introducing me to the Prior of Blackfriars, Oxford. Being a Dominican makes sense of my life and I try to do what I can to be useful even

though I know I am just a minor character in the story of the Church.

Philip Owens



St Dominic - The Play

Cambridge Fraternity's drama project, "St Dominic - The Play", was launched on 8th August the Feast of Saint Dominic. It is available to listen to, here: <https://www.zengeniproductions.com/projects-in-the-pipeline>

The Cambridge Fraternity has performed and recorded it for sharing with the Dominicans of our Province. It is not for public broadcast.

'Scenes from the Life of Saint Dominic in the form of a play' was written by Hilary Pepler, father of Fr Conrad Pepler OP, printed & published at St. Dominic's Press, Ditchling in 1929 and first performed that year at St Dominic's Parish Hall, Haverstock Hill, London. The text was kept in the Library at St Michael's Priory (Blackfriars), Cambridge.

It is a light-touch and (occasionally) gently comic telling of the story of St Dominic travelling from Spain and through France to Bologna, starting in the year 1195: the people he met, his encounter with the inn-keeper, how he interacted with those around him in the midst of fervent and threatening Catharism, the founding of Prouille, the grief of his brethren when he died. There are 14+ characters, with the parts read for the recording by members of the Cambridge Fraternity and Father Colin Carr OP. The action takes place between Calaruega, Toulouse, Pamiers, Prouille and Bologna, ending in 1221 with the death of Saint Dominic. Running Time: 1:16:30.

It is a strictly amateur production, undertaken for love and not for gain! Please bear with us!
Jill Gunsell

All the World

We miss the beginning of the story
Make an appearance somewhere in
The middle,
Given not a particularly important part,
A plot which twists and turns without us,
Focused as it is on the lives of celebrities.
But then, why were we written in?
As foils? Or, to amuse, simply as fools
With rude mechanical intent,
Technically meant to

Fix the light aright on superstars

Who,
Unlike us, take up the centre stage,
Seeming to summer in the writer's plans.
Yet - like us - are threaded through with grief,
Not ever knowing enough to understand
If they have the motive force to keep the crown,
Composure enough to stay the laurel leaf,
Or strength to meet what transcends
human bounds.

Our comic spot in veiled speech hits the mark
The hero reaches to with practised art,
All act the part, are slack to understand
The final intent of the writer's hand.

Enter messenger, with script in hand,
Pointing to the margin of the page
Heads of state, innumerable tumbling crowns;
Some stayed in place but by an act of grace.

His eyes,
In them we meet the steady gaze
Of One who suffers gladly on the stage,
Accepting with a super-rational faith
A glut of insults we could never face,
Eats them up and spits them out as joys.

We chastened players putting on the show
Grappling with the twists set to follow
The revelation that the hero is
The fool most mocked, the
Significance most missed,
Note the narrative's deeper than we think
Likely finished off in blood rather than ink.

Andy Verdon

A travelling Dominican

Almost from the beginning of my life as a Dominican, life and work took me abroad. This has made for a particular formation journey that has involved at times following it online, and not just because of the pandemic.

It has also meant that I have been able to encounter Dominicans in other provinces and to see how we are all Dominican behind the expected local particularities of each culture. A beautiful experience that has helped me recognise in myself my own Dominican calling and to witness the unity of the broader Dominican family first hand.

This past summer brought special joy as I travelled mainly through German-speaking countries and was able there not just to share some time with German and Austrian Dominicans but while attending a conference met brothers and sisters from the Netherlands, France (via Cairo), Canada, Italy, and Germany. As per tradition, one I learnt about at the European Academy of Religion Conference in Vienna, when Dominicans meet at a conference, they all take a photo together. It surprised us all how many Dominicans were present at the Conference in Vienna without any sort of planning on our part.

The conference even counted with three Dominican heavy panels, one of them dedicated to the English Province. Prior to this I had been to a Thomistic Institute summer school in Regensburg Germany. While there a German student brother, who had just been to Blackfriars Oxford, and I were invited one morning to mass and breakfast with the contemplative

sisters at the nearby Dominican convent. This involved, due to our lack of organisation and slight lateness, bumping into the celebrating priest as we guessed our way into the convent, who led us into the chapel via a series of tunnels and steps all the way to the sacristy. To our surprise it was a private mass in their chapel and breakfast in the guest room with about 10 of the sisters. We were having so much fun! We were then late to the first of the talks of the day, but such is life.



Marystella Ramirez

Journey to a Dominican meeting in Liverpool

A poem/notes that I wrote on my first visit to a NW Dominican meeting. It was 2022 and I was apprehensive as this was my first visit on my own to Liverpool. Also there was still a threat of COVID.

(Notes)

I got on the train at Penrith.
Sat opposite a girl with smiling eyes
green/brown of Cumbrian fells.
Hazy outside.

When she left
she was replaced by
two girls talking endlessly about
make up.
Then slowly they put it on
in an exaggerated fashion.

Changed trains.
Opposite me sat a gentleman
who held his dentures and stuck a
finger up his nose.
He waved his arms and made little
grunts.

Arrived in Liverpool.
Didn't know the way
and wandered about a bit
guessing the direction.
Found some traffic police who
explained how to get
to Catharine street, to the meeting.

The meeting was peaceful
full of prayer, study and
companionship.

Walked back to the station
alongside another Dominican.
The streets were busy,
loud music blaring out of bars,
young people dressed in colourful
clothes

running about shouting to each other.

We dodged a partygoer who was sick in front of us.

The train was busy.
Liverpool had been playing at home.
We were packed like sardines in a tin,
standing room only.

I wore my mask.

A man with a Liverpool scarf
offered me his seat
and I listened to the happy chat
about past matches
and players and teams.
At Preston I had to change trains.
My train had been cancelled,
so had to wait an hour for the next one.

It was crowded, but I found a seat.
A troubled young man talked
incessantly
about whether he should alight
at Carlisle, Lockerbie or Motherwell.

When I got off at Penrith
the cold night air was refreshing.
The incidents of the crowded day
melted
in the peace and quiet of home.

Elizabeth Davey

Dominican saints

4 September is the feast day for *Blessed Catherine of Racconigi*, in Piedmont.

Blessed Catherine was a Lay Dominican who was born in 1486 and died in 1547,

abandoned by her friends after a life of renunciation and union. She followed the purgative, illuminative and unitive path. Her life and the tokens she received mirrored St Catherine of Siena, her patroness. She became a member of the Third Order of St Dominic, received the Stigmata, although invisibly to the eyes of others, and shared in the sufferings of Our Lord's Crown of Thorns.

Blessed Catherine was zealous for souls and their salvation from Hell, and she visited many to warn them of their peril and took on herself their sufferings. Blessed Catherine's life exemplifies the virtues of trust and confidence. Her heartfelt aspiration was "Jesu, spes mea!" as she sought union through her daily work as a weaver, mortifications and prayer.

11 October is the feast day for *Blessed James of Ulm*, in Germany. Blessed James was a Lay Brother, choosing out of humility not to be a Choir Religious. He was born in 1407 and died in 1491 in Bologna, where he had received the habit. As a young man he had made a pilgrimage to Rome and subsequently had a short career as a soldier and served as steward in a noble household in Capua, before journeying to Bologna where he was attracted to the church of St Dominic and sought in due course to enter the Dominican Order. Before his profession he pleaded with each of the friars to disregard his unworthiness. Thereafter, he exemplified humility and unswerving obedience and a tender

devotion to Our Lady and Her Son's Passion. He was assiduous in praying
"O Jesu, born of Virgin bright,
Immortal glory be to Thee.
Help me this day, together with
The Father and the Holy Ghost,
For ever and ever,
Amen."

Howard Trust

A Dinner in honour of St Dominic

"...it becomes evident to us that the Third Order has become a devotional prayer society, concretely, as a matter of fact, only for older people. There is a monthly gathering with Mass, a sermon, and a bit of office, which of course is also a daily obligation. Whenever the Dominicans in their apostolate have need of the help of the laity, they do not call upon our Tertiaries, but rather upon the leaders of the modern Catholic lay organizations. At the most, the Third Order members are called upon for such things as holding fancy-fairs, typing or writing out addresses on envelopes, for special solemn ceremonies in the churches, and finally for the annual dinner in honour of St. Dominic."

The noted Dominican friar and theologian, Fr Edward Schillebeeckx, wrote these words in 1960 at the beginning of a critique of the Dominican Third Order (as it was then termed) and a proposal for its future. Perhaps a later edition of *Veritas* can explore more of Fr Schillebeeckx's thinking from 65 years ago. However, this article relates to a mini-pilgrimage undertaken by members of Lay Dominicans North East and its

culmination in a 'dinner in honour of St Dominic.'

On 8 August, to mark the Solemnity of our holy father Dominic, members of our fraternity gathered at the ruins of St Mary's Chapel, the ancient shrine of Our Lady of Jesmond ('Jesus-mound'), in the suburbs of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The origins of the shrine are now obscured by the passage of time but there is an account of an apparition of the Virgin and Child there in the 12th century and the site developed into a major site of pilgrimage. Difficult as it is to imagine now, an account of 1479 includes the site in a list of the four most important pilgrimage sites of England. Nearby is a well connected to a holy spring and the capstone above the well has been inscribed with the words of the Hail Mary in Latin, with 'gratia' the most clearly visible.

In the grounds of the Chapel, in which many people still leave objects of devotion, prayer and thanksgiving, we recited the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, intertwined with verses from Scripture.

We then moved on to St Dominic's Church, just a mile and a half away. The Dominican friars had returned to Newcastle in 1860, initially working out of St Andrew's Church which was, at that time, on Pilgrim Street in the city centre. However, in 1863, they acquired the site for a new church and, in September 1873, St Dominic's was opened by Cardinal Manning. The friars left Newcastle in 2019 but left behind a building in which Dominican symbolism and iconography is very much 'hard-coded' into every corner.

The church is currently under the care of Jesuits but they seem to have become accustomed to their extremely Dominican environment!

We were welcomed warmly by Fr Dermot Preston SJ who provided some guides for the church as well as refreshments. We took some time to explore the building before coming together to sing Vespers, along with a group of young adults who are expressing interest in the Lay Mission Project and the broader Dominican life.

Finally, we moved across the city to the site of the medieval Blackfriars, established in 1239 and dissolved exactly 300 years later. The church itself was demolished soon after the site had been sold by the Crown to the Mayor of Newcastle, but the cloister buildings remain, including the original refectory and a banqueting hall that, in days past, saw the friars entertain visiting royalty. In 2001, Blackfriars Restaurant opened in the refectory and hall and the owners take great pride in stating that diners are eating in the oldest dining room in the UK! In 2024, they even opened a micro-brewery, producing St Dominic's Ales in what had been the Chapter House. The President of the Fraternity can vouch for the quality of their ales!

And so, at the end of a day of devotion, conversation and fraternity, (and perhaps to the chagrin of Fr Schillebeeckx!), we enjoyed our 'dinner in honour of St Dominic' and hope to have another mini-pilgrimage next year when the Solemnity falls on a Saturday and more may be able to attend.



At table with the Lay Dominicans



Outside Blackfriars



A toast to St Dominic!

CEPHAS 2025

*"Dialogue is fruitful when it is the struggle to learn from each other. The medieval **disputatio** practised by St Thomas was based on the assumption that one's opponent is always, in some sense, right. It is easy to identify another person's errors. Do we have the courage to hear what they may teach us? The struggle of true dialogue is like Jacob wrestling with the angel, leaving one wounded and blessed."*

(Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe: Sing a New Song: The Christian Vocation)

"What is God?" Philosophical, Christian and Islamic Approaches.

On the 60th anniversary of Nostra Aetate (1965), CEPHAS 2025 invited participants to come together to reflect on 'What is God', "What is that inexpressible mystery which encompasses our existence?" (Nostra Aetate, 1)



Participants taking 'time out' for more discussion!



In the first lecture, Prof. Corbett (University of St Andrews) differentiated between what we can know about God through our reason, and the knowledge of God which comes from Divine revelation, and to which we assent by Faith. He also provided an introductory survey, and account, of Aquinas's philosophical treatment of 'the one God', in relation also to Muslim objections to the Christian faith.



Dr Fernando Servantes, Lay Dominican, (University of Bristol) provided two

A woman in a white clerical garment is presenting a slide titled "PROCESSIONS, RELATIONS, AND PERSONS". The slide also contains a quote: "Because the divine Persons are distinguished only by their relations to the substance of divinity, the order of the procession is not essential to the nature of the persons, but only to the order of their origin." (CCC, 283). The presentation is taking place in a room with a cross on the wall and a laptop on a stand.

As usual, there was also the opportunity to partake in the daily liturgy, led by Sr Magdalene, and to hear mass.

For more information about CEPHAS visit:

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Fraternity news

Leicester

The Leicester Lay Dominican Fraternity has been around for a very long time. My grandmother, Martha Beaver, was a member of the Fraternity and she died in the 1950s.

We meet on the second Saturday of the month at the Frassati Centre, a building attached to Holy Cross church and the Priory. The Frassati Centre was originally the first Holy Cross church and we met in St Clement's Hall which was the original Holy Cross School - one room ! We are blessed in having Fr John Farrell as our religious assistant.

Historically, the Fraternity was associated almost exclusively with the parish but we now draw members from all over Leicestershire and as far afield as Kettering, Birmingham and South Yorkshire. As some members find it difficult to travel to every meeting there is also a zoom meeting and this works very well. It is disappointing that we do not seem to have anyone from the parish itself but we are working on that. Our meeting starts at 11am and we go to the 12.30 Mass in the church. Chapter Prayers are said in the church after Mass and sometimes people join us. Currently we are looking at Acts in Scripture and our Formation is looking at Vatican II.

We have fifteen members and one enquirer. We have had two first professions this year. Sadly we have also

had the death of a much loved member, Patricia Dube.

Patricia Dube was born in what was then Rhodesia on 21 November 1937. She was a mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She had come to England from Zimbabwe, where she had been a headteacher, in 2002 to join her family. On visiting Zimbabwe last year she was taken ill and died on 7 December. Patricia attended Mother of God church in Leicester living quite literally next door.

Fr Simon Robson, OP had got to know her as he lived in Glenfield and suggested that Patricia explore joining the Lay Dominicans. She was a quiet lady but we soon realised that when she had something to say she spoke with authority and wisdom. She was also someone who gave us all an example in the frequency and commitment of her prayers. If you asked Patricia to pray for someone you knew that she would do it and do it again and again. At first Patricia, who had poor eyesight, would take two buses to get to our meetings but the fraternity decided that she should be chauffeured and it became my privilege and pleasure to drive her to and from our meetings. I learnt so much from her. She was my second spiritual adviser. We all loved her dearly and were shocked and saddened by her death. However, I knew from our talks that death held no terrors for her and that she looked forward to meeting her Saviour. As she died and was buried in Zimbabwe, a remembrance Mass was held at Mother of God. The church

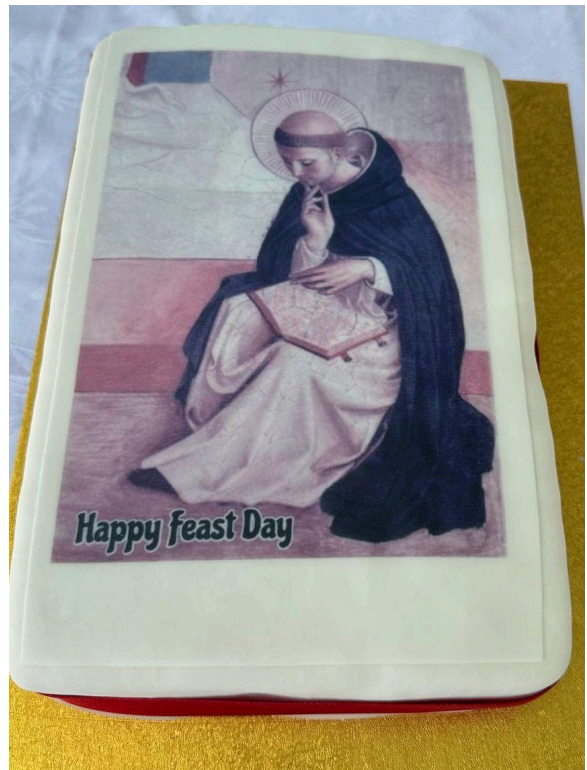
was full and the Mass had drums and traditional singing. At the reception afterwards fraternity members had the opportunity of meeting her daughter and son-in-law and other members of the family. May Patricia rest in peace.

Peter Kilty

Crawley

Summer has been a busy and blessed season in Crawley. The Fraternity has celebrated the admission of three new members and the Solemnity of our father Dominic was marked with a fraternal gathering at the convent in Gossops Green. The Dominican Missionary Sisters hosted both occasions. About the admissions, the Fraternity's spiritual director, Sr Chama stated that 'every step taken in faith is a moment of encounter'.

We pray these encounters be a witness to the Gospel and the mission of the Dominican family.



North East

Having been restored as a fully-fledged Fraternity earlier this year, we have elected our new Council, and it has been meeting every two months and intends to do so until we are more firmly established. Our group remains healthy, whilst still relatively small – we had two admissions earlier in the year and an enquirer has recently started coming along to our meetings. We are awaiting a new Religious Assistant following fr Thomas Mannion's renewing his studies in Rome but appear not to have fallen into any pernicious heresies – yet.

For the last few months, Lay Dominicans North East have been reviewing various aspects of the Second Vatican Council, particularly its teachings on Revelation, Liturgy, Ecclesiology and the Lay Apostolate and also the Dominican influences upon and within the Council. We will be editing and distilling the presentations made by members of the Fraternity so as to create our contribution to the library of Formation videos requested by Sara Parvis.

We continue to meet regularly, though we took a short break in August for a mini-pilgrimage described elsewhere in this edition of Veritas. During that pilgrimage we also met up with a group of young adults, some of whom were new to the Catholic Church, who were interested in the Lay Mission Project and the intention is that we keep in touch with them over the next few months and years.

As we did last year, we are hosting a recitation of the Rosary for World Rosary Day at our meeting hub at St Cuthbert's

Catholic Church in Durham on 7th October. Last year's celebration attracted 70 people from the parishes of Durham and the student community of our University.

Our meeting in November will be in the shape of an Open Day on Saturday 15th from 11am until about 3pm when Rik Van Nieuwenhove, Professor of Medieval Thought at Durham University shall be addressing us on the Jubilee theme of Hope. Although the fine details are yet to be worked upon, Rik will be exploring the contemporary relevance of Thomas Aquinas's writings on hope, looking specifically at situations of apparent hopelessness. More details will be circulated nearer the time.

Looking ahead to next year, we anticipate having another Open Day on 21st March when, amongst other contributions, Dr Richard Hillier will speak on 'The poetic predecessors of Aquinas' hymn *Sacris solemnis*.' Again, more details will be circulated nearer the time.

Finally, our group is seriously considering our contributions to the cause of justice and are perhaps gravitating towards something related to work in prisons as Durham has a multiplicity of them. It is still early days but if any readers are already involved in such work and can offer any insights or help, we would love to hear from you.

Andy Doyle

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Cambridge

We have eleven professed members: some can't attend meetings now but WhatsApp and email keep us close. Our youngest Sniffer is an undergraduate and our oldest attending member is 94. We had five enquirers until recently when one moved over to the Lay Mission Institute. We meet monthly for a whole Saturday supported by our RA, Fr Colin Carr OP whom God preserve as he is very dear to us.

Happily, the last year or so has seen four First Professions and two Admissions, (a lawyer and an AI scientist). We have a new Fraternity Council with Ian Herbertson (professed 2009) as President. The council has set up a formation team under Zlata Vrabec's leadership. We have two Silver Jubilarians: Jill Gunsell (February) and Zlata Vrabec (July). Some of us attended Dominican events in Lancashire, Leeds, Leicester, Edinburgh and the pilgrimage to Spain. Sadly, our Day of Recollection (June) was cancelled at the last minute because of family emergencies and illness. In July we rejoiced as our brother, Jonathan Wright (professed 2015), was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate for East Anglia. All of us work in the Mission, serving *inter alia* as catechists, RCIA-ers and liturgists, on our parochial councils, in the SVP and *Churches Together*, in schools and prison-visiting, leading prayer groups at work, in various areas at diocesan level and in hospices and hospital chaplaincy. Because we are spread across four dioceses, our corporate events are few and far between but this year we recorded Hilary Pepler's 1929

light-hearted play about St Dominic and the early days of the Order. Our members and Fr Colin read all the parts and produced and directed the podcast.

Our dynamic Early Formation (EF) group meets separately from the full fraternity, working through the Province's EF material. Our recent, whole-fraternity Ongoing Formation (OF) topics have included *AI in pharmaceutical research*; the *Fourth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary*, (cf. Fr Aidan Nichols' *In a Rose Garden*) and St Dominic's *Fourth Way of Prayer* and we have delved into various books of the New Testament. Our 2025-26 OF programme includes a study schedule based on the 2025 *Ration Formationis* and McDermott's *Concise Summa*.

Speaking of study, this is from Saint Vincent Ferrer OP:

"Do you desire to study to your advantage? Let devotion accompany all your studies, and study less to make yourselves learned than to become a saint. Consult God more than your books, and ask Him, with humility, to make you understand what you read. Study fatigues and drains the mind and heart. Go from time to time to refresh them at the feet of Jesus Christ under his cross. Some moments of repose in his sacred wounds give fresh vigor and new lights. Interrupt your application by short, but fervent and ejaculatory prayers: never begin or end your study but by prayer. Science is a gift of the Father of Lights; do not therefore consider it as barely the work of your own mind or industry."

And lastly, a little piece of 2023 news we have not mentioned before and that some

may have missed. Sr Helen Alford OP, former Cambridge Fraternity member, Dominican sister, engineer, liturgist, moral philosopher and the Angelicum's Dean of Social Sciences, is now President of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. Please pray for Sister Helen.

Jill Gunsell

Requiescant in Pace

We remember with affection and gratitude all the recently departed,

- Antonia Lacey (Oxford)
- Sue McQuinn (London)
- Jasper Scovil (Oxford)

May they and all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

And finally:

"We are preachers even when we are old or sick and could not anymore speak. We are preachers even when we are young and silenced by our shyness. We are preachers even when we are not ordained, etc. We incarnate preaching by our very lives. This is our mission, our being."

Fr Gerard Timoner OP - letter to Dominican Family, May 2025

