



MONASTERY BELLS

LIFE WITH THE CLOISTERED DOMINICAN NUNS

website: www.lufkinnuns.org

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Fall 2011

MONASTERY OF THE INFANT JESUS

1501 LOTUS LANE

LUFKIN, TX 75904

The Lord will guard your going and coming



Bishop Corrada and Sr. M. John

In July we received the news that Bishop Alvaro Corrada del Rio, SJ, is leaving East Texas to become bishop of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. During his time in the Diocese of Tyler, Bishop Corrada officiated at eight solemn professions at our monastery, and celebrated Mass for various jubilees, funerals, and other occasions. Bishop Corrada has always been a good friend and supporter of our life. We will miss him.



Our New Chaplain

The first week of July, Fr. J. D. Logan, OP, completed his time as chaplain here, and moved on to Ponchatoula, LA. Replacing him is Fr. Paul Philibert, OP. He is a native of Baltimore, MD, where his family knew the Dominican nuns in Catonsville. He was ordained in 1963 and has spent most of his ministry as a teacher of theology at, among other places, Providence College, the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley, and Aquinas Institute in St. Louis. He is a former Provincial of the Southern Province and serves now as Promoter of Permanent Formation. He is also a member of the Commission on Studies of the Dominican Order. Recently he published translations of works by Cardinal Yves Congar, the late eminent French Dominican theologian. And, shortly after his arrival here, he offered some talks for the convocation of deacons of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Welcome, Fr. Paul!



Fr. Paul Philibert, OP

A Dominican Forever

David Bomer, who has worked for us faithfully for over 20 years, made his permanent promise as a member of the Dominican Laity on August 13, 2011. It was a day of great joy for David, his family, the other members of the Laity who meet here regularly, and for all the nuns, too! David began working for the monastery on a part-time basis, and then became a full time employee after retiring from his day job. He always seems to be available when we need him. He can fix almost anything, and knows whom to call when he needs extra help. And he does it all with a smile. We are so grateful to have him working for us, and we are delighted to call him our brother in St. Dominic.



David with moderator Amy Haney

We were happy to welcome Fr. Scott O'Brien, OP, who presided at David's ceremony in the chaplain's absence. Fr. Scott was recently appointed Novice Master for our province. We hope to see him again when he brings the novices on a tour of the province.



Fr. Scott O'Brien, OP

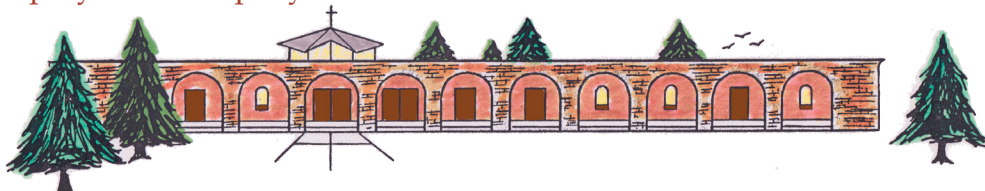


Members of St. Thomas Aquinas Chapter

It was on one such tour that we first met the novice, Gerald Mendoza. In July he returned, this time as a priest. He was able to celebrate Mass for us and to share with us about his doctoral thesis in Pastoral Counseling. Our prayers accompany him and all our brothers and sisters.



Fr. Gerald Mendoza, OP



☞Greetings and Meetings☜

Novice Directresses



Sr. Mary Angela lecturing

In May, we hosted eight novice directresses for their annual meeting. We also welcomed two special guests: Sr. Mary Angela, OP, the novice directress of the Nashville, TN Dominicans, who gave the sisters a presentation on formation in the modern world, and Sr. Mary Dominica Brennan, OP, from the Springfield, IL congregation, who spoke on canon law and formation. These lectures were only for the novice directresses, but there was an opportunity for intermingling outside meeting times – and the community was happy to get to know the Sisters better. For several guests, this was their first visit to Texas. (Now they know that all the “Texas Brags” they’ve heard are true!) We spent many joyful hours recreating with our sisters and deepening our monastic ties.



Sr. Mary Dominica taught Sr. Mary Margaret over forty years ago at Rosary High School in Aurora, IL!



Novice Directresses with Sr. Mary Angela and Sr. Mary John



Sr. Mary Dominica preparing for the next session

Theological Students

The Monastic Theological Studies Program met for its second year in July. The sister-students, who came from the monasteries in Lufkin, TX, Farmington Hills, MI and Summit, NJ, were happy to be back in school again, especially with the two gifted professors they had this year: Sr. Barbara Green, OP, a San Rafael Dominican sister who taught an excellent class on the Psalms; and Dr. Margherita Maria Rossi, director of Thomistic Studies at the Angelicum in Rome, who gave a whirlwind tour of the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas. This year there were also seminars based on the previous year’s classes. The seminar on philosophy was conducted by Sr. Mary of the Savior, OP, (Farmington Hills, MI) and the one on theology by Sr. Anna Marie, OP, (Elmira, NY). It was an enriching experience and the students look forward to next year’s courses.



Lands of Dominic

From September 6-11, 2011, we experienced a pilgrimage to the lands of St. Dominic without ever leaving our monastery! Through PowerPoint presentations and personal narrative, Fr. Matt Walsh, OP, and Sr. Ann Willits, OP, guided us through Spain, France and Italy and we followed in the footsteps of our holy father St. Dominic as he founded the Order of Preachers and proclaimed the Word of God. It was almost as good as being there, especially without the hassle of travel in these modern times!



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