



The Center for Dominican Studies NEWSLETTER

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In this issue:

❖ Dominicans Celebrate 800 Years!

❖ Colloquium of Dominican Colleges and Universities

❖ Italy Tour

❖ New Scholarly Journal

❖ Preview of Special Programs and Events 2006-2007



Picture Taken from DSI (Dominican Sisters International Web Site <http://www.op.org/dsi/>)
Dominic receives women into the Order

Dominicans Celebrate 800 Years!

This year (2006) marks the 800th anniversary of the founding of the monastery in Prouilhe, France, by St. Dominic. This first monastery, founded in 1206, is the cornerstone of the Dominican Order and the Dominican Family. Monasteries worldwide are celebrating this anniversary in ways great and small. Share in the rich heritage of our University by learning more about the roots and traditions of the Dominican charism.

Dominican Values:

- *Seeking Truth*
- *Practicing Compassion*
- *Exercising Justice*
- *Building Community*



From the beginning of the founding of the Order of Preachers, Dominic de Guzman engaged women in the life and ministry of “the holy preaching.” Sainte-Marie de Prouilhe, the first monastery of Dominican Nuns, and the first community of the Order, is the birthplace of the Dominicans. From its humble beginnings as a home for the first nuns and preaching base for the Dominican friars, men and women throughout the world have been inspired and challenged to respond to the call “to contemplate truth and share with others the fruits of that contemplation.” The fire and passion of Dominic lives on in the Dominican Family today in the friars, nuns, sisters, associates and all members of the extended family. Let us celebrate and give thanks!

Challenging the Mind, Celebrating the Spirit

9th Biennial Colloquium of Dominican Colleges and Universities



June 8 – 11, 2006

Dominican College

Blauvelt, New York



Ohio Dominican participants Dr. Jay Young, Dr. Ginny McCormack, Jenn Schaaf, and Sr. Catherine Colby, O.P. pause for a picture in front of the N.Y.C. mural.

An enthusiastic group of colleagues from Dominican Colleges and Universities across the United States gathered at Dominican College, Blauvelt, New York to engage in study, dialogue and celebration around the theme *Challenging the Mind, Celebrating the Spirit*. During the four day event, sessions were developed around various 21st century themes as follows: **Challenging the Mind:** Intellectual Challenges, Seeking the Truth; Educational Challenges, Understanding the Truth; Leadership Challenges, Demonstrating the Truth; and Technological Challenges, Disseminating the Truth. **Celebrating the Spirit** sessions included: Ethical and Moral Challenges, Living the Truth; Global Challenges, Sharing the Truth.

Keynote speakers featured **Peter Steinfels**, Catholic writer, educator, and speaker; **Timothy Radcliffe, O.P.**, Master of the Order of Preachers (1992-2001), professor at Oxford, world wide lecturer and author; and **Arlene Flaherty, O.P.**, the Justice and Peace Promoter with Catholic Relief Services. **Dr. Christina Pratt**, faculty in Social Work and Sociology at Dominican College led the audience through an inspiring reflection entitled *Justice, Non-Agression, and Renewing Commitment in Beloved Community*.

Presenters from Ohio Dominican conducted sessions that included:

Wizards, Harry Potter, and Transformational Change featuring **Dr. Jay Young**, Business Division, Ohio Dominican. This session focused on the exploration of five common roles that are capable of catalyzing change in others. The roles were identified as a part of a 1997 qualitative research study and offer insight into how the transformation change process dovetails with human relationships. Harry Potter is used as an example to clarify key concepts.

Guiding Student Truth Seekers in Examining Technological Innovations that Promote Ethical Values and Decision Making featuring **Dr. Virginia McCormack**. This session offered a vision for guiding university students in the exploration and use of innovation technologies that support ethical values in harmony with the Dominican mission. Dr. McCormack identified capabilities and limitations of contemporary and emerging technology resources and assessed the potential of these systems and services to address personal, educational, lifelong learning and workplace needs that support leading student truth seekers to evaluate technologies in a manner that might lead to informed and just decision making.

Preaching Truth in the Public Square through a Center for Dominican Studies featuring **Sr. Catherine Colby, O.P., Ed.D.** In this session, Sr. Catherine noted how Dominican Colleges and Universities are in a unique position to respond to the needs of our society and the global community by providing opportunities for study, dialogue, and the search for truth that reaches beyond campus gates. This presentation explored ways in which a Center for Dominican Studies at the University level might serve as a resource for promoting the Catholic and Dominican identity of the institution for all stakeholders. A variety of diverse programs and activities were shared that support the University's opportunity to serve as a public voice for the community and beyond.

Other highlights of the colloquium included daily liturgies, festive meals, a one-woman presentation of the life of St. Catherine of Siena by **Sr. Nancy Murray, O.P.**, and a dinner cruise to the Statue of Liberty. See page three for reflections given by participants.

Looking Back at the Colloquium Experience

What sets a Catholic Dominican University apart from any other four-year private university? I've heard this question asked a number of times – from new staff members, in regards to our upcoming accreditation process, and in our “Path to Preeminence.” Some of the answers became very clear at the recent Colloquium of Dominican Colleges and Universities. The first is a world-view. At all of these Catholic Dominican colleges, faculty, staff and students are looking at the world in a different way. They are seeking answers to questions in their disciplines by looking both inward and outward. Music faculty talk about both math and spirituality as being fundamental in music. Foreign Language professors integrate the poetry of Spanish mystics into their courses. Students act out the lives of famous Dominicans as part of their new student orientation, demonstrating how the lives of saints and founders are similar to the lives of students in the modern world. At a Catholic Dominican University, a holistic approach is taken to education.

The second area is that people at Catholic Dominican Universities are people of prayer. From an opening ritual that began with each school bringing a rock from their grounds, the foundation of where they were at, to daily morning prayer, and a closing liturgy that moved people to tears. Despite all of our differences in denominational, religious or geographic background, the holiness of being together, of being on “sacred ground,” brings you to a place of awe and respect for the God among us. The final distinction of Catholic Dominican Universities is that we are concerned citizens. Arlene Flaherty, O.P. presented a talk that focused on the three questions: How do we Seek Truth? How do we Live Compassionately? How do we Become Family? Catholic Dominican Universities, if they are doing their job, are graduating students who will be leaders in ethics, people who challenge unjust systems, and care about their fellow humans and the earth. The Colloquium theme of “Challenging the Mind and Celebrating the Spirit” could be our theme here as well. As we move into another academic year, our challenge is to continue to do both.

Jennifer Schaaf, Campus Ministry, Ohio Dominican University

I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in the 9th Biennial Dominican Colloquium with my colleagues from Ohio Dominican University and other Dominican Colleges and Universities. It was a time of prayer, worship, renewing friendships, and communicating ideas. This collaborative endeavor to “Challenge the Mind and Celebrate the Spirit” enriched us with shared knowledge for the intellectual, educational, ethical, moral, global, leadership and technological challenges that Dominican educators face daily.

Dominican institutions continue an 800-year tradition of quality education committed to developing character, vision, compassion, and enduring dedication to lifelong learning and the pursuit of truth. We may be separated by geographic boundaries but we are bound by a cohesive support network where everybody shares the same goal that is evidenced by the professors, staff and administrators who are noted for being value-centered, student oriented, challenging and supportive, dedicated to social justice and service- focused.

The most powerful experience during the Dominican Colloquium was the closing liturgy, a Spirit of Celebration Liturgy where we gathered as a Dominican community and readied ourselves to continue on the journey of seeking truth. **Dr. Virginia McCormack, Associate Professor of Education, Ohio Dominican University.**

In June I attended, for the first time, Colloquium of Dominican Colleges and Universities. This year marked the 800 anniversary of the Dominican Order and the conference celebrated the foundations and history of the Order. In attendance were representatives from over 14 Dominican Colleges and Universities from around the country. The conference was held at Dominican College in Orangeburg, New York.

For the first time, I felt a part of a broader family of Dominican institutions. Over the four days of the conference, I enjoyed meeting many colleagues while deepening my appreciation and understanding of our Dominican heritage and values. The conference programs and workshops were helpful and the social activities provided plenty of time to learn about the “goings on” at other Dominican institutions. It was particularly interesting to visit with other Business faculty members about the activities, teaching, scholarship, and challenges they face at our sister institutions. I would recommend this conference to anyone, but particularly to faculty who have only recently joined ODU. The Dominican family of institutions is much larger than I imagined and our history is much richer than I previously understood.

Dr. Jay Young, Assistant Professor of Business, Ohio Dominican University

The Center for Dominican Studies Scholarly Journal

This Fall, The Center for Dominican Studies joins the 800 year celebration of the founding of the first Dominican monastery in Prouilhe, France, by opening possibilities for shared study on issues of importance to the church, culture and society through the publication of manuscripts that reflect a body of contemporary wisdom in the Catholic and Dominican traditions. The initial “Call for Papers” will be available in the near future. In his recent book *The New Wine of Dominican Spirituality: A Drink Called Happiness*, **Timothy Radcliffe** (2006) noted that Dominicans in every age have insisted that there can be no serious awakening to God without an awakening in the mind. He further noted that in the Dialogue of St. Catherine of Siena, she refers to the holiness of Thomas Aquinas in this phrase; “Thomas saw God in his mind’s eye.” Contributions to this journal will be open to a wide variety of topics that address contemporary issues of the church, culture and society with a focus on scholarly dialogue and a compassionate response to the needs of our 21st century world.

*Highlights for Programs and Events
2006-2007*

sponsored by

The Center for Dominican Studies

To view additional programs visit the CDS web site at

<http://www.ohiodominican.edu/about/dominicanstudies/default.asp>



November 9, 2006

Matesich Theatre @ 7:00 PM

A Living Faith? A New Generation?

Featuring: **Peter Steinfels, Ph.D.**

New York Times Religion Columnist, and author of *A People Adrift: The Crisis of the Roman Catholic Church in America*. Dr. Steinfels is a university professor and co-director of The Fordham Center on Religion and Culture in New York City.



March 6, 2007

Sansbury Hall, Colonial Room @ 7:00pm

The Death Penalty: How Just is Our System of Justice?

Featuring: **Sr. Helen Prejean**

Sr. Helen is a Sister of St. Joseph, Medaille, Louisiana. Her book entitled *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of The Death Penalty in the United States* was on the New York Times Best Seller List for 31 weeks. In 1996, the book was developed into a major motion picture starring Susan Sarandon as Sister Helen and Sean Penn as a death row inmate.

April 19, 2007 (Two Performances)

Spangler Library, Listening Viewing Center @ 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM

St. Catherine of Siena

Featuring: **Sr. Nancy Murray, O.P.**

Sr. Nancy Murray, a Dominican Sister of Adrian, Michigan, in a one-woman performance, shares the life and works of this 14th century Dominican mystic and saint who spoke boldly to popes and princes. Sister Nancy is the sister of the famous actor Bill Murray.

To register for these events email Sr. Catherine Colby at colbc@ohiodominican.edu



*Tour Italy the
Dominican Way*

*Explore the Wonders
of Italy's Great Cities*

Led by

*Jack and Rose
Calareso*

March 8 – 18, 2007

*For more information contact
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call (614) 251-4722*

