



The Center for Dominican Studies NEWSLETTER

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Peter Steinfels Lecture

“A Living Faith? A New Generation?”

On **November 9, 2006**, The Center for Dominican Studies sponsored a special public lecture delivered by Dr. Peter Steinfels nationally known author and lecturer who currently serves as co-director of The Fordham Center on Religion and Culture in New York City. Steinfels served as editor of *Commonweal*, an independent biweekly journal of political, religious and literary opinion before landing at *The New York Times* in 1988. A two-time Pulitzer Prize nominee, he created and continues to pen his biweekly column *Beliefs*, dealing with religion and ethics. In 1997, he left his full-time position as senior religion correspondent to write *A People Adrift: the Crisis of the Roman Catholic Church in America*. While teaching at Georgetown, he co-directed a three-year research project on American Catholics in the Public Square, funded by the Pew Charitable Trust. Steinfels' presentation entitled: *A Living Faith? A New Generation?* was shared with an enthusiastic audience of 200 participants from the university and local community who engaged in a lively question and answer session and book signing that followed the lecture. Steinfels' comments were framed by information gathered through the National Study of Youth and Religion, including his own research and lived experience as a member of the Catholic community. He posed many thought provoking questions and challenging answers. A complete copy of the text of his presentation may be found on The Center for Dominican Studies web site under newsletter and publications.

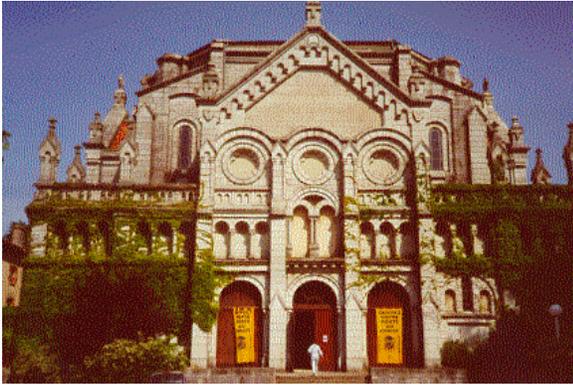
“What do I mean by passing on the faith? Well, in brief, two things which, added together, constitute a third. First, passing on a stance of fundamental trust in creation and its creator, an attitude of openness to and in the transcendent, the divine. Second, passing on the deposit of faith, handed down from the apostolic age and cultivated and developed over the centuries by the Spirit-guided church. These two things combine to create the conditions for an encounter not with a psychological state or a list of doctrines but with a person, Jesus the Christ, the Word made flesh, who lived, died, and rose, is seated at the right hand of the Father, will come again, and gave the Spirit to animate his people as a mystical body. That encounter and the discipleship that may result we can only prepare, facilitate, make possible, make probable, in our lives, our sacraments, our beliefs—ultimately it is the work of the Spirit and the response of the broken but free individual.

But except, perhaps, for the rare religious virtuosi among us, it requires a living community.” (Steinfels)

Dr. Steinfels is pictured left to right with Fr. Thomas McGonigle, OP, Fr. John Boll, OP, Dr. Kathleen Riley, Dr. Barbara Finan, (Steinfels), Sr. Catherine Colby, OP, and Dr. Ronald Carstens in The Center for Dominican Studies.



From Prouilhe to Columbus, Ohio, We Celebrate 800 Years of “The Holy Preaching”



Pictured left is the current monastery and church in Prouilhe, France where St. Dominic de Guzman set up what was to emerge as the first community of Dominican Nuns, on December 1206. Pictured to the right is a group of visitors from Dominican Colleges and Universities who were touring the special site. Over the past few years, several ODU faculty, staff and students have participated in the Fanjeaux, France study experience where they spent time at this sacred site.

In 1206, the first group of Dominican women were gathered together by St. Dominic de Guzman in Prouilhe in the South of France. It was there that he founded his first community, perpetuated today by a convent of contemplative nuns. The keystone of the original church, and several early statues are preserved at the current site. The Dominican Family all over the world is participating in a 10 year celebration of the foundation of the first community at Prouilhe and the birth of the Dominican charism. To note this special anniversary, **The Center for Dominican Studies** at Ohio Dominican University sponsored a series of information sessions opened to the entire University community from August to October of 2006 that included three opportunities for all members of the ODU community to explore and discuss topics relevant to the Catholic and Dominican tradition of the University. These special sessions were to honor the 800 year celebration of Dominican Sisters. **Session One: The Center for Dominican Studies Open House.** During this open house participants had an opportunity to visit the Center and hear about the special programs and activities offered through the Center. **Session Two: *The Catholic and Dominican Tradition of ODU* featured Sr. Mary Joel Campbell, O.P. (Promoter of the Charism for St. Mary of the Springs Dominicans)** **Session Three: *The History of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs*, founders and sponsors of Ohio Dominican University, featured Sr. Arleen Kiesel, O.P. & Sr. Mary Joel Campbell, O.P.** This session explored the history of the Dominican Sisters who founded the university and **took place at the Martin de Porres Center at St. Mary of the Springs.** The event include a tour of the Dominican Sisters' new Motherhouse residence and chapel. Participants had a guided view of the pictorial history of the Congregation's ministries.

Pictured below are pictures of the new Motherhouse residence and interior of the chapel.



The Center for Dominican Studies Advisory Board Meets



Fr. Tom McGonigle, OP, Director of The Center For Dominican Studies at Providence College Offers reflections on the importance of a Center for Dominican Studies at Colleges and Universities.



Fr. John Boll, OP, Sr. Catherine Colby, OP, Sr. Joan Scanlon, OP and Sr. Anne Kilbride, OP converse before the business meeting of the CDS Advisory Board.



Members of the ODU community and guests joined members of the Advisory Board for the luncheon and presentation. Pictured left to right are Janice Wilson, Beth Kowalski, Jim Layden, Sue and Dave Van Wossenrove, Joe Kelley, Dr. Godwin Duru, Dr. Leo Madden, Dr. Nancy Beran, Bishop James Griffin and Dr. John Grant.



A meeting of the Advisory Board of the Center for Dominican Studies was held on **Friday, November 10, 2006**. Previous to the meeting, a special luncheon was held featuring two presenters Fr. Thomas McGonigle, OP, Director of The Center for Dominican Studies at Providence College and Sr. Anne Kilbride, OP, Prioress of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs. Attending this portion of the meeting were special invited guests of the administration, faculty and staff.

Fr. Thomas McGonigle, OP gave an inspiring and challenging presentation that focused on the importance of Centers for Dominican Studies in our colleges and universities as a new and vital way to further the Dominican mission. He highlighted the importance of our commitment to our students who are hungering not only for growth in their intellectual life, but also in their spiritual journey as they prepare for the future. He noted that administrators, faculty and staff have an opportunity through The Center for Dominican Studies to better understand and learn how to integrate the identity and mission of the university into their daily work.

Sr. Anne Kilbride, OP gave an overview of the collaborative agenda of the Dominican Family that includes friars, sisters, nuns, Dominican Associates and Dominican volunteers. All of these groups are connected through several initiatives including Dominican Sisters International, the Federation and Alliance of Dominican Women, and programs for Dominican high schools, colleges and universities. She shared how the Springs Dominican Sisters' journey in faith into the future has included dialogue with six other Dominican congregations over a period of four years to discern possible congregational reconfiguration. All of these efforts focus on enhancing the Dominican mission by sharing resources, personnel and ministries.

Book Study Opportunity Launched

"For Dominic, **study** was the cultivation of the listening ear, using all the human techniques of language and science. It was the careful cultivation of a listening ear that would be hearing all truth, wherever it was coming from. It was limitless immersion in the Word of God, in the Scriptures as handed on in the Church of God. It was at the same time limitless immersion in the words of men and women, and in the world of nature, so that the truth that is there would be brought to light. But most of all, it was the thoughtful effort to build bridges of understanding and conversation between people, so that they could see a way through their differences and be drawn together in communion."

Liam Walsh, OP Excerpt from a conference given to the Sisters of the Zimbabwean Congregation at their General Chapter September 2002



Participants listen as faculty member Janie Leukart shares her ideas. During the **Spring 2007 Semester**, 20 participants will discuss Timothy Radcliff's book *What is the Point of Being a Christian*.

Sixteen members of the ODU community joined together during two evenings during the Fall 2006 semester to discuss the text *All Creation is Groaning: An Interdisciplinary Vision for Life in the Sacred Universe* (Editors: Carol J. Dempsey, OP and Russell A. Butkus). Held in The Center for Dominican Studies, these lively discussions focused attention on essays written by faculty from the University of Portland in Oregon. These essays include insights and a new vision for living in our sacred universe that evoke dialogue and challenge. Participants in the study group received a copy of the book over the summer of 2006 in preparation for their group sharing. **Guided questions considered:** What new concepts, ideas, insights and challenges emerged as you read this book? What does all of this mean for us as colleagues in a Dominican University? What implications does it have for our stewardship of the earth?

Video/Lunch & Discussion



Bartolome de las Casas

During the month of December, two video/lunch and discussion sessions were held in The Center for Dominican Studies featuring the life and mission of Bartolome de las Casas. Las Casas was a 16th century missionary from Spain to the lands of the Spanish Conquerors in the West Indies, Central and South America. Bartolome de Las Casas, missionary, Dominican friar and defender of the oppressed serves as a model for us today as we struggle with the injustices of our society. Las Casas House is located on the Ohio Dominican campus that houses the administrative center for our LEAD Programs that services working adults.

Note Upcoming Programs for Spring 2007

January 17, 2007 Sansbury Hall, Colonial Room @ 6:00 PM (Supper Included)

Dominican Conversation Circles: Islam

January 25, 2007 Matesich Theatre, Erskine Hall @ 10:30 AM

Aquinas Convocation: Contemplative Wisdom: the Goal of a Dominican Education

February 15, 2007 Sansbury Hall, Colonial Room @ 7:00 PM

Dominican Life of the Mind: Secularization, the Church and Society

March 6, 2007 Sansbury Hall, Colonial Room @ 7:00 PM

Dominican Life of the Mind: The Death Penalty: How Just is Our System of Justice?

April 19, 2007 Spangler Library, Listening Viewing Center @ 7:00 PM

St. Catherine of Siena

Featuring: Fr. Stephen Fitzhenry, OP

Featuring: Fr. Kurt Pritzl, OP

Featuring: Dr. Robert Royal

Featuring: Sr. Helen Prejean

Featuring: Sr. Nancy Murray, OP.