# **Center for Dominican Studies Happenings, 2012-2013**

This academic year, Ohio Dominican University's Center for Dominican Studies hosted/cosponsored a variety of programs and opportunities continuing the mission of the Center to promote the Dominican motto of seeking truth and contemplating truth in order to share the fruits of this contemplation. Some highlights of the successful year:

## Big Ideas of Vatican II

This eight-week series drew large crowds excited about revisiting the Vatican documents as the Church celebrated the Second Vatican Council's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. The lecture series reviewed some of the central insights of the Council that continue to drive theology today. No other event or person had a greater impact on the Catholic Church in modern times than Vatican II. Lecture series topics included:

- The History and Context of the Council, by Dr. Kathleen Riley
- The People of God, by Father Scott Steinkerchner, O.P., Ph.D.
- The Church: Sacrament in the World, by Dr. R.W. Carstens
- Did Anything Happen at Vatican II? by Father Ed Hussey, Ph.D.
- Revelation: Traditions and the Tradition, by Dr. Leo Madden
- Ecumenism, by Father Jared Wicks, S.J., Th.D.
- World Religions, by Father Dan Millisor, M.A.
- Echoes of the Council Today, by Dr. Ann Hall

#### **Capital Punishment and Forgiveness**

Featuring Rev. Walter Everett and Bishop Fredrick Campbell, this presentation provided a thought-provoking conversation on a timely subject.

During the presentation, Rev. Everett explained that his son, Scott, was shot and killed by Mike Carlucci. Rev. Everett shared how he came to forgive Carlucci only months after his son's death and enjoys a friendship with him to this day. Together they work to abolish capital punishment. Bishop Campbell discussed Catholic teaching on the death penalty.

Rev. Everett is a retired pastor of the United Methodist Church of Hartford, Conn., and an advocate of the anti-death penalty movement. The Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell has served as the 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Columbus since 2005 and sits on the board of Ohio Dominican University.

### Vast Universe: Extraterrestrials and Christian Revelation

Father Thomas O'Meara, O.P. delivered our Feast of Thomas Aquinas lecture on Jan. 24, 2013. The lecture addressed questions of faith that could result from the discovery of intelligent life on other planets.

Father O'Meara has authored 15 books, including *Vast Universe: Extraterrestrials and Christian Revelation*. He earned his doctorate at the University of Munich. He taught at Aquinas Institute from 1966 to 1979 and at the University of Notre Dame from 1981 to 2002. He continues to teach part time at various universities.

#### Life of the Mind Series

Dominican Father Timothy Radcliffe, O.P., as part of the Life of the Mind series, spoke on two occasions: "How Can We Touch the Imagination of our Contemporaries" and "Does Christianity Have Anything to Say about How We Should Love?" This lecture series provided an opportunity for the community to gather and reflect upon the ideas and events that shape our communities and our culture.

Father Radcliffe is a Roman Catholic priest and Dominican friar of the English Province, and former Master of the Order of Preachers. Since the Orders foundation in 1216, Father Radcliffe is the only member of the English Province of the Dominicans to have held the office.

#### God in a World of Violence

We closed the season on April 25 with this timely topic provided by Sister Diana Culbertson, O.P. Sister Culbertson is the author of *God in a World of Violence: Spirituality in Adult Christians Series*. Her presentation asked the questions, how did we become so violent? Who are our victims today and how can they can be saved? Where is God in all of this? Using the insights of Rene Girard, we reflected on our tragic history, seeking ways to respond.

Sister Culbertson, professor emeritus at Kent State University, is a former president of the International Colloquium on Violence and Religion.

ODU's Center for Dominican Studies serves as a resource for those interested in learning more about Dominican education, the Dominican charism, the history of the University, and its mission and values. To fulfill its mission, the Center sponsors and hosts a variety of programs and services for students, faculty, staff, alumni and the general public. The happenings listed here are available for your viewing on our website, <a href="www.ohiodominican.edu/dominicanstudies">www.ohiodominican.edu/dominicanstudies</a>. You will find these presentations thought provoking, in keeping with our Dominican motto of seeking truth.

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