Reflections on Dominican Life - Vitalising our partnerships

As our Dominican Brothers celebrate their centenary in Southern Africa, I reflect on life-giving partnerships.

Our Dominican Family in Southern Africa embraces consecrated women from diverse congregations, consecrated men, and laity members who share the mission, values and practices of Dominican life. This diversity has potential to bring vitality to our lives. This potential is realised when we consciously come together, and pursue our Dominican mission, live our values and observe our practices. I cite three instances of being fully alive to Dominican life.

First, the Contemplative Book Club under Fr. Albert Nolan’s leadership is a space in which we read, contemplate and share our exploration of modern spirituality. Study includes religious as well as secular tracts, particularly study, contemplation, loving service and shared communion. Meister Eckhart articulates my sentiments:

- Always Kissing
- They are always kissing, they can’t control themselves.
- It is not possible that any creature can have greater instincts and perceptions than the mature human mind.
- God
-_perms
- So I see it is true, all objects in existence are wildly in love.

beneath practice and provides a vibrant space for manifesting our justice practice. Sr Mary Tuck OP established this project in 2000 in response to the HIV & AIDS pandemic, leaving many orphaned and vulnerable children. She invited me to design and facilitate child, youth and organisational development programmes so that services to children and youth continue growing in depth and responsiveness. Dominican life fills me with joy, energy, and meaning. Sharing in Dominican life gives me an expanded sense of family, community and belonging. This experience of being fully alive emanates from our pursuit of Truth through study, contemplation, loving service and shared communion.

Second, the Dominican Study Week on Migration in December 2016 expanded my sense of community, deepened my pursuit of knowledge and Truth, and honed my insights for loving engagement with foreign unaccompanied minors living in Soweto. It was organised by Prof Br. Philippe Denis OP and Fr. Damazio Ngonza OP at Emaphetelweni Dominican Community, Pietermaritzburg. Engaging with young Dominican brothers was life-sustaining.

Third, loving service at Sithand’izingane Care Project fosters healing wounds, reflects the Dominican presence in the entire Southern African region in our contemporary age.

In 2017, one hundred years down the line, Dominicans remain present and contribute in several ways both within and outside the Church in Southern Africa. In anticipation of the centenary celebration, on 29th July 2017, a book entitled The First Dominican Friars in Bolzburg, Brakpan and Springs – South Africa (1917-1927), authored by Fr Joseph Falkiner OP, was launched in Johannesburg. The book describes the founding members and their work in the first ten years of the Order in South Africa.

On 5th August 2017, about four hundred members of the Dominican family, priests and religious, parishioners belonging to Dominicans of Southern Africa, were part of the occasion. The occasion was graced by Archbishop Peter Wells, the Apostolic Nuncio to South Africa, who presided over the Holy Mass as the main celebrant.

The homily was delivered by Father Bruno Cadore OP, the 87th Master of the Order of Preachers and current Chancellor of the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Rome, Italy. In his homily, Father Bruno Cadore OP applauded the contributions Dominicans have made in the region and described the centenary as a moment of renewal so that the holy preaching may remain relevant.

The Southern African Catholic Bishops were represented by Auxiliary Bishop Duncan Theodore Tsele and Bishop Abel Gabuza. A message applauding the occasion from Archbishop Stephen Bulpin of Cape Town, President of the Southern African Catholic Bishops’ Conference, was read at the function. Father Gabriel Samba OP, Secretary of the Master of the Order of Preachers for Africa, Sister Rudo Shungu Matsika OP, Regional Provincial of the Dominican Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for Zimbabwe; Sister Thobile Gumede OP, Mother General of the Dominican Sisters of Montebello and Delores Hartenberg, president of the lay Dominicans in Southern Africa, were part of the occasion.

The Dominican students and the Dominican Sisters of Montebello led the liturgy beautifully with their singing. A festive reception was held after the Mass.

Fr Stanislaus Muvebe OP, Prior Vice Provincial of the Province of Southern Africa, in his speech, noted that the centenary celebration was a “moment of grace” for the whole Dominican family and a time to celebrate the vision, the gifts, as well as the various blessings received.

He explained how Dominicans started the Kroonstad Diocese through the founding of various parishes, their involvement in the promotion of justice and peace, intellectual ministries such as publishing and lecturing, ministries to the oppressed and impoverished, Catholic media, and involvement in the Young Christian Workers (YCW) and the foundation of the Theological Education by Extension College (TEE).

The same sentiment was expressed by the guest speakers Professor Vincent Mphapai and Rev Dr Simangaliso Mkhathawa, who applauded the involvement of Dominicans in various spheres, especially their prominent role during the Apartheid struggle.

Professor Vincent Mphapai emphasised that social justice, pastoral outreach and intellectual work are the key areas requiring the involvement of Dominicans today. He challenged Dominicans to continue undergoing renewal so that they may remain relevant in the Southern African region. The emphasis on the need for ongoing renewal and re-examining the vision of the Dominicans for the future is vital.

The past hundred years of Dominican presence in Southern Africa have been fruitful and the challenge is to constantly make checks and balances so that the Dominicans and their presence may remain relevant. By so doing, Dominicans will continue positively responding to the signs of time while remaining faithful to their identity and mission.

African Student Brothers Meet in Angola

The student delegates of the eight entities of the Inter-Africa of the Order of Preachers (IAOP) attended a session on communion and Thomist As Aquinas community in Luanda, Angola, from the 24th to 26th July, 2017. The session was animated by Fr Eric Salihos, General Promoter for Social Communication. Fourteen student brothers took part in this triennial Session or IAOP Student Week organised by the IAOP Councillor for Formation on different themes. This session which was on communication was suggested by the Master of the Order, Fr. Jean-Baptiste Caquineau OP of the English Province of the Order of Preachers.

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The African Student Brothers of the Order of Preachers of the English Province of the Order of Preachers met in Angola to exchange ideas and promote communion and understanding. The meeting concluded with a Visit of Fr. Bruno Cadore OP to the English Province of the Order of Preachers.
**To praise, to bless, to preach**  
– Dominican presence in Zambia

I n 1924, the Dominican Mis-
sionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus came to what is Zambia today. For 90 years, we have been the only Domini-
can Family in the country.

Naturally we dreamt that one day the whole Dominican Family would be represented here. Much to our joy, four years ago, Dominican Nuns from South Africa arrived, and the Bishop of Kabwe welcomed them most heartily to his diocese. In December 2016, the Friars too arrived from Nigeria.

It’s a dream come true! We are welcoming them most heartily to his diocese. In December 2016. Prior to his arrival here, he had been Conventual Prior of St. Joseph Convent, Mafoluku, in Lagos and also taught in the novitiate. He was joined by two other Friars on 17th May 2017.

Fr Felix Udosa served as Youth Chaplain at St. Dominic’s Catholic Church, Yaba, Lagos and Station Priest of St Andrew Du Lac, Makoko. He was also an associate Chaplain at St. Thomas Moore Catholic Chaplaincy, University of Lagos, and taught Theology at St. Catherine of Siena School of Theology for Lay People.

Fr Joseph Mary Clarence Olowe worked in different Parish apostolates as an associate pastor, managing the Marian Pilgrimage Center, and lectured at the Cat-
echetical School for the training of Catechists in the Archdiocese of Benin City, Nigeria.

To praise, to bless, to preach is our calling as Dominicans. Our Brothers have been invited by the Bishop of Kabwe to open and manage the Marian Shrine for the Diocese, and to offer programmes to promote Marian Spirituality. The Brothers hope to further offer for their services at St Augustine Major Seminary and help in different parishes. The Dominican Province of St Joseph the Worker intends to build a secondary school for boys in Kabwe, in response to the wish of the Bishop.

So, we, the Dominican Missionary Sisters, the only Dominicans in this country for very many years, have reason to be grateful to God for his blessings, and grateful to the Province of St. Jo-
seph the Worker for this marvelous generosity and the readiness to support the Church in Zambia with our particular charism: to contemplate, and to share the fruits of our contemplation with the people of God and with all God’s creation.

**Pictures from the Centenary Celebrations**

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**NEW BOOK ON EARLY DOMINICAN HISTORY IN SA LAUNCHED**

Sat urday, July 29th saw the launch at the Paulines’ Centre in Johannesburg of the book on the first ten years of the presence of the Dominican brethren in South Africa.

The book, entitled “The First Dominican Friars in Bloemfontein, Brakpan and Springs - South Africa (1917 - 1927)”, was written by Fr Joe Falkiner OP, and the keynote speaker at the launch was best selling author Fr Patrick Noonan OFM.

The book was published by SA Catholic Online, and printing was sponsored by Jetline Print.

“We thank Brother Joe, Brother Emil and the history committee for the great work that they have done to prepare and publish the book,” said Fr Stan Muyebe OP, Vice-Provincial of the Order.

“There is a discussion to explore two other books to cele-
brate God’s grace in our history, one to cover the arrival and the early years of the work of our Do-
mocratic brothers from Holland and another to cover our history and experience after the merging of the two entities into a general vicariate.

“We thank the Lord for the Holy Spirit who continues to renew us and re-found us in the footsteps of our father Dominic. I thank you for your love for the Order,” said Fr Stan.

The book is available from Radio Veritas and the Pauline Bookstore at R100 and may be ordered online at www.radiover-
itas.co.za/store

**CONGRATULATIONS TO BROTHER NANA**

Our three novices have been admitted to profession.

The profession was held on 4th August in Kenya, and Brother Myke represented us. We thank our brothers in Kenya for accompanying our novices.

We are also grateful to our brothers in Holland for the financial support to our brothers for their novitiate in Kenya.

Our four postulants have been admitted into the novitiate. Two of them (Motlatsi and Donald) arrived in Kenya to start their novitiate in August.

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**CENTENARY DONATION FROM HOLLAND**

Our brothers in Holland sent us centenary gifts in form of a Do-
iminican flag to each community.

All communities received them at the jubilee celebrations, share with us your pictures of how you have hoisted them in the next issue.

**AN INDBABA ON LEADERSHIP MINISTRY**

All Superiors and Priors will meet with the Provincial for an in-
formal meeting on one of the afternoons in September/October to share their hopes and challenges in leadership ministry in various communities. The meeting will end with a formal din-
er. This meeting will in future take place at least once a year.

**CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**

Fr Stan would like to take this opportunity to thank all the brothers for all the great work that went into making Centena-
ry celebration a success and a blessing. His gratitude goes to all the committees: Brother Lewis and the logistic committee, Brother Brian and the media committee, Brother Joe and the history committee, Brother Mokete and the liturgy committee.

“The Nuncio has asked me to convey his gratitude for the memorable day he spent with us. He apologises for forgetting the name of St. Dominic during the preface!” said Fr Stan.

**NEW ASSIGNMENTS**

We wish all our brothers well who received new assignments.

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**Snippets from The Editor**

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