



RÉSEAU

MARCH 2025

Volume 57, No 1

www.dominicains.ca/en

SOMMARY

A word from the Provincial Prior	2
A word from the Director	3
In our RESEAU/Network	4
Chronicles	12
• Vancouver 12	• Québec 21
• Squamish 13	• Missionary Adorers 23
• Toronto 15	• Japan I 25
• Ottawa 17	• Japan II 28
• Montréal 18	• OP Laity 32
• Saint-Hyacinthe 20	
A picture is worth a thousand words	33
Tribute to Michel Côté	34
Letter from Ukraine	35



**PROVINCE
SAINT- DOMINIQUE
DU CANADA**

Editor : Frère Raymond LATOUR, op
Infography : Gabriel PROVOST

*Sculpture de saint Dominique d'A. PELTIÉ,
artiste québécois de Saint-Jean-Port-Joli.*

A word from the Provincial Prior

DARE TO HOPE!

Life has made its way through this long winter which, by the time you read these lines, will no doubt be well and truly behind us. We know it, we're certain of it: life is stronger than anything. Stronger than the ice that encases us, than the cold that too often paralyzes us. As the seasons go by, nature becomes our teacher, teaching us to read the signs of the times. To anyone who knows how to listen, she whispers words that are at the very heart of the act of creation: "Dare to hope!"

This is what Pope Francis said on the occasion of an Easter Vigil: "The first stone to be rolled away this night is the lack of hope that imprisons us in ourselves." Indeed, a lack of hope sometimes leads us to consider our commitments, our efforts and even our mission as sterile actions, as stabbing at the air. This attitude then becomes a source of discouragement, spiritual acedia and loss of

faith. But are we going to leave too? Our hope must have deeper roots than a season's crocuses and dandelions!

Of course, living the mission and assuming our community life in a period of crisis of meaning and widespread indifference to the Church is hardly exciting. To younger people who might be attracted by success and fame, I'd say: go and work at Google, on the stock exchange or in a promising start-up where young people are flocking. But for us Dominican brothers, whatever our age, the passion that must dwell within us is to follow Christ! To live his good news together, to share it with those around us, to reach out to those who seek and want to walk with us, while letting ourselves be led by the Spirit of God to whom we have entrusted our lives.

Daring to hope requires us to let go of both our personal and our community dreams. I don't want to talk here about defeatism or resignation, because I've always been a dreamer and I won't stop dreaming. But more than ever in this Jubilee Year, we should not confuse the hope to which we are called with a search for security, or with those ephemeral successes of our apostolates that we sometimes confuse with true happiness. No, our hope and our faith call us to serve selflessly, as good servants in the way of Christ, wherever that may lead us, sometimes even where we wouldn't want to go. Happy ascent toward Easter!

Fr. Yves Bériault, o.p.



A word from the Director

Opening

In the year 2025, should we be invited to become “pilgrims of hope”? Every day, the news summons us to do so, telling us of a state of the world that seems to forbid any optimism. In his words, the Prior Provincial urges us to “dare to hope”, a leap of faith that can be asserted in a thousand ways. In the world as it is, any gesture of openness certainly becomes a bold affirmation.



The prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi tells us: “Where there is hatred, let me bring love... Where there is despair, let me bring hope, where there is darkness, let me bring light”. What actions are we invited to take? Acts of resistance and insubordination to the prevailing gloom are worth their weight in gold. Don't give in to defeatism in the face of a wave of identity-based withdrawal, don't howl with the wolves who growl at any initiative that departs from a single model of society, don't make the “other” the scapegoat for all our ills. The “I” of the prayer in question is that of a person who wants to be in communion with God and his project of love. An “I” who hopes, an “I” inhabited by the Spirit, an “I” completely disproportionate to that of an individual who would rely on his own strength. What act of hope could we possibly perform?

In this context, wouldn't a bilingual NETWORK - French and English versions - be a sign? With a growing presence of the Dominican family in Vancouver, a consistent commitment in Toronto and a presence in Ottawa, hasn't the time come to expand our RESEAU (NETWORK) more decisively by publishing it in both languages? This issue is a step in that direction: Francophones and Anglophones meet in the same NETWORK.

Fr. Raymond Latour, o.p.

In our RESEAU/Network

New Master of Novices

Brother Dieudonné Bigirimana has been appointed Master of Novices. He will join the brothers of the St. Mary's community in Vancouver in the summer.



Respondent

The Provincial Council has designated Brother Raymond Latour as the respondent for the House of the Most Holy Rosary (Séminaire Saint-Hyacinthe).

Prioral election

Brother Symphorien Ntibagirirwa was elected for a new term as prior of the convent of Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin in Bujumbura (2025/ March)

Assignments

Last December, Brother Antonio Miguel Esteveao joined the community of the Brothers of St. Albert the Great in Montreal. He belongs to the vicariate of Angola (province of Portugal). Aged 51, he holds a doctorate in social communication. His thesis was recently published in Portugal. He was director of Radio Ecclesia in Uganda, appointed by the bishops. He has also taught at the Grand Séminaire and could eventually contribute to the one in Montreal. He has an experience of many years of parish ministry. He currently serves the Notre-Dame-de-Fatima community in Laval, where the Portuguese-speaking community gathers.



Brother Calixto Castellanos, age 47, from the Province of Colombia joins the St. Albert the Great community of Montreal (March 2025). He was the director of a radio station related to the Shrine of Our Lady of Chiquinquirá. He will study French for a few months before serving a Spanish-speaking community in Montreal.



New Religious Assistant

Brother Gustavo Ineza will be the Religious Assistant of the Lay Fraternity Luce Veritas of Mississauga.



In our RESEAU/Network

Episcopal appointment

Brother Fr. Emmanuel Ntakarutimana, from our Vicariate of Rwanda and Burundi, was appointed Bishop for the Diocese of Bubanza, by Pope Francis, on February 15, 2025. Brother Emmanuel was born on December 30, 1956 in the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Gitega. After studying philosophy at the Major Seminary of Bujumbura and theology at the Catholic University of Congo in Kinshasa (DR Congo), he obtained a doctorate in fundamental theology at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland.

He made his first profession in Ibadan, Nigeria, on September 28, 1981, and made his solemn profession in 1984 in Rweza, Burundi. He was ordained to the priesthood in Gitega on August 23, 1987. Brother Emmanuel has held many responsibilities both within the Order and in the local Church.

He was professor of fundamental theology at the Major Seminary of Gitega (1986-1989);



secretary of the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace (1988-1990); Master of Students at the Inter-African Dominican House of Formation in Kinshasa (1991-1993); Coordinator of the Ubuntu Centre for the Promotion of Peace and Reconciliation in Bujumbura (2001-2015); Director of the Office of the Bishops' Conference for Evangelization (2015-2021). Since 2021, he has been Coordinator of the Council for the Creation of the Catholic University of Burundi.

International conference

Brother Bruno Demers is organizing an international conference on the work of theologian Claude Geffré, o.p. The conference will take place at the end of March at the Institut Catholique de Paris.



Inaugural lesson

Brother Didier Caenepeel is now working at the Faculty of Theology at the University of Fribourg. He gave an inaugural lecture on Psalm 33. That was last December.



In our RESEAU/Network

Promotion of vocations

At the end of the year, Brother Jose Apolinario participated in the "Rise Up" vocational meeting held in Calgary. The photos show him in the company of other promoters of vocations from the American provinces.



Website

RÉSEAU invites you to discover the site renewed internet of the Canadian province. You will be able to access videos and NETWORK numbers will also be housed there. Here is the link to this site that you will benefit from to visit regularly... between two publications of this bulletin.

<https://dominicains.ca/en>

Subscribe!

We want to Intensify our presence on the social networks.

If you have produced material that would benefit from being shared, you can send it to

communications@dominicains.ca

In our RESEAU/Network

New Ministry for Brother Carlos Betancourth

Last January, our brother Carlos Bétancourth was instituted in his new ministry as pastor of Notre-Dame of Chiquinquirá Parish, in Colombia. The Prior Provincial, Brother Yves Bériault, was keen to participate in this celebration.



In our RESEAU/Network

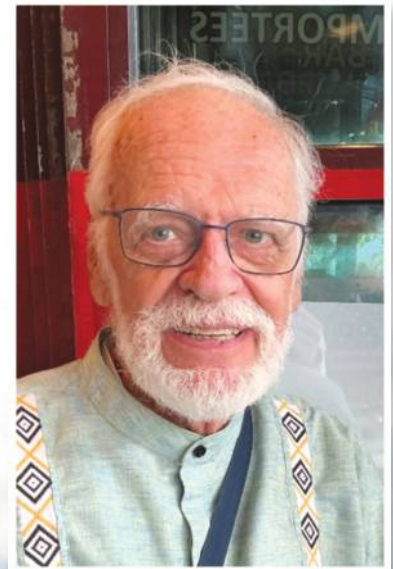
Mass of the Nations

On Sunday, March 2nd, the thirty-fifth edition of the "Mass of Nations" of the Dominican student community of the University of Montreal (Cédum) was held. The celebration was presided over by Brother André Descôteaux who greeted the assembly (of nations) in a multitude of languages. This celebration of the diversity of peoples and cultures was particularly welcome in a context of international tensions. The preacher invited us to take this fraternal look, this "look that changes everything". (R.L.)



Tribute to Brother Yvon Pomerleau

At the end of October 2024, Saint Joseph's Oratory celebrated the retirement of a number of collaborators, including our brother Yvon Pomerleau, who served on the Oratory's Board of Directors and as Vice-President in recent years. (Photo by Brother Bernard East, who continues to work there, along with our brother Gustave Nsengiyumva).



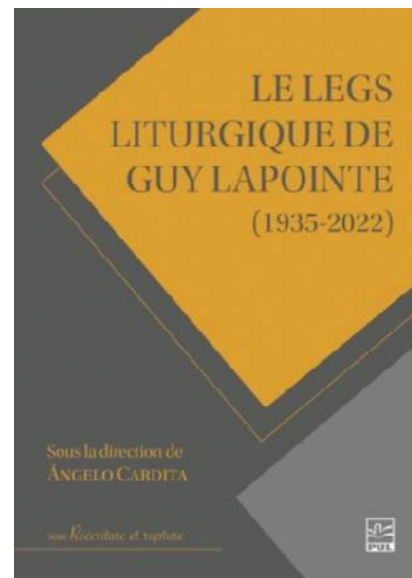
Book Launch:

"Guy Lapointe's liturgical legacy"

The community meal is a well-established tradition in our community. On several occasions during the year, members are invited to have lunch together at the end of the Sunday assembly and to discuss a chosen theme. The meal on January 26, 2025 was special because it gave rise to the launch of the book *Le legacy liturgique de Guy Lapointe*.

This book collects the texts of the lectures given at the international conference "Guy Lapointe and his liturgical legacy", held at Université Laval on July 20, 2023. The launch took place in the church. This was probably the most appropriate place, since G. Lapointe has participated in the community since its beginnings and has often presided over the Eucharist and delivered the homily.

After a word of welcome from the president, Michèle Beaulac, Professor Ângelo Cardita, presented the book. A member of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Sciences at Université Laval for 13 years, A. Cardita is well aware of G. Lapointe's liturgical and theological contribution and wished to explore it with a few colleagues at the 2023 conference. In the introduction, Ângelo Cardita recalls the career of G. Lapointe as revealed by his main writings of liturgical interest. His doctoral thesis, published in 1972 under the title *The Celebration of the Martyrs in Africa* after the Sermons of Saint Augustin, is a work of a historiographical nature. He then published a kind of liturgical manifesto, *Celebrating Where Men Live* (1978), and then a collection of articles on sacramental theology, *Celebrating the Sacraments* (1995). G. Lapointe also participates in several collectives on various theological themes, including a text in a book prepared in his honour during his retirement, in which he promises to continue his activities ("And now, what am I



going to do?" *Un chantier toujours ouvert*", in J.-G. Nadeau ed., *La liturgie, mise en scène ou entracte?* 2005). He also gave an important lecture entitled "Poetics and Liturgy" on the occasion of receiving the title of Master of Theology in the Dominican Order (2005).

Through this journey, Â. Cardita sees an evolution in three stages, in which G. Lapointe, after a historiographical approach to the liturgy, emphasizes its symbolic dimension, then its poetic and spiritual character. The various contributions of the book are ordered according to the chronological sequence of the route thus traced. A specialist in Augustine, Pierre Descotes shows that G. Lapointe's erudite study published in 1972 contains innovative intuitions for the time, many of which are confirmed in recent research. Olivier Bauer, professor of practical theology at the University of Lausanne, demonstrates the 1 Under the direction of Ângelo Cardita, *Le legacy liturgique de Guy Lapointe (1935-2022)*, Québec, Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 2024).

For Brian Almeida, a doctoral student at Laval University, Lapointe's work is marked by a

In our RESEAU/Network

backdrop, that of a plea for a liturgy that is constantly in need of reform (*semper reformanda*). His essay deploys five reasons why the liturgy must be conceived in this way.

In his second contribution to this collective, Ângelo Cardita explores the dramaturgical intuitions of G. Lapointe as expressed in articles such as "Dieu et la scène liturgique" (1988). He also notes, between this text and the 2005 conference "Poetics and Liturgy", a kind of hesitation between the category "staging" and the category "intermission", borrowed from the philosopher Jean-Yves Lacoste.

The theologian Robert Mager examines a set of articles published by G. Lapointe in the journal of the Office national de liturgie between 1986 and 1996. He identifies the mark of a style, that of the ferryman. Through these texts, G. Lapointe shares a persistent question: how can we enter liturgically into the experience of an elusive God who offers himself to know and live in the person of Christ?

In the lecture "Poetics and Liturgy" (2005), G. Lapointe states and explains the conviction that has been forged in him through his intellectual work, his practice of faith and his priestly service: the Christian faith has an inescapable poetic dimension and the liturgy is its privileged place and means of expression.

The book closes with a brief portrait of G. Lapointe, sketched by Jean Duhaime and Jean-Claude Breton. In particular, they emphasize how G. Lapointe knew how to surround himself with competent and reliable people, capable of supporting him in his projects, and even of taking charge of them and ensuring their realization. His way of acting was therefore perfectly suited to the objectives of the Christian Community of Saint-Albert-le-Grand and the practices of co-responsibility put in place to achieve them.

In the wake of the launch, Guy Bonneau, Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Sciences at Université Laval, presented the "Rewriting and Rupture" series of the Presses de l'Université Laval, of which this book is a part. He also announced that the surplus of the financial contributions received from the Christian Community of Saint-Albert-le-Grand and

the Dominicans for this publication will be allocated to the creation of a liturgy prize to be named after Guy Lapointe.

Monique Morval, president of the liturgy committee, was then invited to describe how Eucharistic celebrations are organized at the Christian Community of St. Albert the Great. His intervention was largely inspired by a document available on the community's website.

Finally, those present evoked some memories of G. Lapointe. Particularly noteworthy was his unconditional welcome, his open-mindedness, his great generosity and his ability to foster everyone's talents.

In a touching testimony, his colleague André Descôteaux underlined the deep pastoral sense of G. Lapointe who wanted to be close to what the members of the Christian Community of Saint-Albert-le-Grand were experiencing. They reciprocated it by constantly surrounding him with their presence during his last days, a sign of the very strong bonds that had been established between them.

-by Marie-Claire Tremblay and Jean Duhaime



Friar Guy Lapointe standing with the actual respondent priest of Communauté chrétienne Saint-Albert-le-Grand, fr. Raymond Latour.

Necrology

+ Mr. Philippe Caenepeel, who died on January 17, 2025, at the age of 88. He was the father of our brother Didier Caenepeel to whom we offer all our sympathies as well as to his family.

+ Mrs. Hélène Pelletier-Baillargeon, who passed away on February 14, 2025, in Montreal, at the age of 93. She was an active member of the Christian community of St. Albert the Great and directed the magazine "Maintenant", linked to the Dominicans.

+ Sister Yvonne Paquin, Dominican of the Trinity, who died on February 21, 2025 in Quebec City, at the age of 95. She worked for many years at the Dominican University College of Ottawa.



Chronicle of Vancouver

Father David Bellusci, O.P.

Great sharing and good pizza !

The Priory of Saint Mary is delighted to have Father Gilles guiding and helping the Brothers with their different needs from practical pipe issues, to bringing brothers to the hospital, picking them up at the airport, maintaining the supply of white wine, besides his ministry at St. Mary's parish.

On the Feast of St. Albert, the Dominican community was joined by young men from Fr. David's Bible study; Father Gilles remained at the end of dinner with his glass of red wine, chatting with then enquirers like a good Dominican father.

Father Gabriel, our cantor, has been hospitalised for a series of health issues; he keeps the community updated and he remains prayerful, especially with his pastoral commitments on his mind. Nevertheless, Father Gabriel expresses gratitude for the vocational development – and the excitement -- of the postulancy and anticipated novitiate.

Father Mark, who is now the subcantor, finds great joy in interacting with the two postulants on a regular basis, Andrew Antes and Andrew Heakes. Father Mark also just finished his first round of interacting with the school children from all the classes at St. Mary's elementary school, from Kindergarten to Grade 7, with emphasis on the topic of the Eucharist and Adoration proposed by the pastor, Father Joseph. Also, visiting Queen of Peace Monastery, Father Mark spent time with the nuns, a community of blessed with Dominican vocations.

Father David, the Director for Vocations in Vancouver/Western Canada organised a discernment day at the Priory of Saint Mary at the end of November with seven young men participating at prayers, for community meals, and talks. Father David visited Saskatoon in October where he met Chris Ruest, now a Dominican candidate. Bishop Hagemon (Bishop of Saskatoon) also attended one of Father David's talks on Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati. In January, Father David continued with his Dominican promotion in Western Canada, in Calgary, using his time at St. Mary's University to give a presentation on Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati, and promote Dominican vocations. In Calgary Father David met with

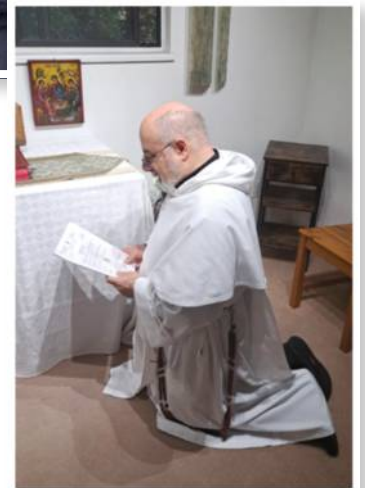
Michael Ocenar, now a Dominican enquirer. Besides Dominican promotion, Father David spends his time teaching at university, giving retreats, preaching at missions, and celebrating Mass for Sisters.

Besides our postulant, Andrew Heakes, who began living at the Vancouver priory in September, Andrew Antes moved into the priory in January. Both are presently studying, serve Mass at St. Mary's parish, join the Brothers for prayers and meals, and both continue to participate in Father David's bi-monthly Bible study and Faith sharing that ends with the Rosary. Fr. Jose is their postulant master, providing the "two Andrews" the guidance they need.

At the conventual pizza and movie night, Andrew Antes chose the movie (Franco-Polish), and Father David picked up delicious pizza ("pesto" was the best seller) for the community evening. The time to relax together as Brothers was truly enjoyable.



*Fr. Gilles Simard,
formally received as
Prior of the community.*



Chronicle of Squamish

Sister Marie-Bénédicte



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
dear friends,

Brother Yves has asked me to introduce myself to you, the regular readers of “Réseau”; I find it difficult not to respond to this invitation from the Provincial....

So let me introduce myself: My name is Sister Marie-Bénédicte. I am a professed nun at the “Sainte-Marie-Madeleine” Monastery in Saint-Maximin-La-Sainte-Baume, in the Var region of France.

Two years ago, I came to Canada to help our sisters at Queen of Peace Monastery, and on November 20, the sisters there elected me Prioress of the Community.

It was a real surprise, and I wasn't expecting it at all. As one sister remarked, “the Lord has taken you seriously”! But what a show of confidence on the part of the Community, towards a sister with no particular aptitude for this role.

In fact, during my “long” religious life - I joined the monastery in 1982, at the age of 24 - I've held many

offices (kitchen, procurement, reception, liturgy, sacristy, etc.) and positions (councillor, sub-prioress, bursar), but I've never been prioress.

Fortunately, I can count on a great deal of help and support from my sisters: they are all full of talent, imagination and creativity; they share responsibility for all areas of the monastery and take on its material and spiritual life with great ingenuity.



I also benefit from their kindness and patience in “putting up” with my English diction, which is really bad. I simply receive encouragement; this kindness and openness to difference are, I think, qualities of the Canadian temperament.

So, you may ask, what is your mission? The Rule of Saint Augustine, which Saint Dominic chose for us, shows me the way:

“As for the one who is at your head, let him not consider himself happy to dominate in the name of his authority, but to serve out of love.”

I'm counting on your prayers to help us on this path of conversion.

This year, the Community celebrates the Jubilee of its 25th anniversary; 25 years of hard work, endurance and reflection, sustained by the enthusiasm and generosity of our founding sisters, to build a monastery and establish the life of Dominican nuns.

Thank you to all of you who believed in and worked for this foundation!

Today, life is flourishing: the Lord has given us the grace of young and beautiful vocations. With our brothers in Vancouver and the novitiate of the Province, with our apostolic sisters and lay brothers and sisters, we are truly a Holy Preaching in British Columbia!

In this spirit, we are now seeking to acquire the neighbouring plot of land to preserve our silent setting and build a small monastic guesthouse. Here again, we need your prayers, as there are many administrative formalities to be completed.

We look forward to welcoming you one day for a retreat in one of the small hermitages we hope to build in the heart of this beautiful natural setting, where everything speaks to us of God, His Grandeur, His Beauty and His Peace.

Dominican Friars of Toronto

Hervé Tremblay, O.P., Prior

October 2024 to February 2025



Toronto is snowbound! Nobody here is used to this. In February, we experienced cold weather and heavy snow fall. The streets and sidewalks are slow to be cleared and Torontonians are impatient.

I would like to say that all the brothers are fine, but it is not so unfortunately. Br. Alexandre had health issues last fall and had to go to the hospital. Then, it became obvious that he could no longer live alone in his apartment. Even though his health has improved since then, it is likely that he will have to live in a residence. His brother is searching for the best place for him.

The other brothers continued their apostolate: Br. Darren at TST (Toronto School of Theology), Br. Minlib at DIT (Dominican Institute of Toronto), Br. Thong in his hospital ministry, Br. Gustave ending his

Ph.D. thesis. Br. Matthieu began a part-time master's program at St-Michael's.

Here are the main events to underline.

On November 5th, there was the traditional Cardinal's diner where 5 brothers were present in full regalia. The occasion was attended by more than 1500 guests from the political, municipal and religious worlds. This year's event was special because the news of the elevation of Bishop Francis Leo to the College of Cardinals had been announced not long before.

Our yearly celebration of Dominican laity associated with the Dominican All Saints Feast took place on Saturday November 9th at Sacré-Coeur Church. All four fraternities of the GTA (Greater Toronto Area) sent

representatives and there were a few professions, followed by the meal in the basement of the Church, offered by Ripples of Kindness.

Bishop Leo was appointed cardinal in Rome on December 8th along with, as we all know, two other Dominicans (Timothy Radcliffe and Jean-Paul Vesco). The following day, there was a celebration of the new Dominican cardinals at the Angelicum. Br. Darren, who happened to be in Rome for a conference, was able to take part in that celebration.

Following that event, there was a thanksgiving mass for the newly appointed cardinal at the cathedral on January 15th attended by the prior and a few brothers.

There was a retreat for the Dominican Lay Fraternity of St-Pierre Claverie in Aquinas House on December 16th.

On January 19th, the Caribbean parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel celebrated the 25th anniversary of the ordination of its pastor but also its 60th anniversary of foundation. This is the parish where our Dominican sisters pray and work (Sr. Carla Thomas, Sr. Kathy and Sr. Arlene). Br. Hervé and Matthieu were present at the celebration.

There was the yearly Mass for consecrated life on February 1st at St-Paul's Basilica, presided by auxiliary bishop Camilleri.

The last week of January was very busy. First, we welcomed Stephan van Erp, lay Dominican who teaches at Leuven Catholic University. He began his commitments on Sunday January 26th with a short retreat for the Dominican lay persons which drew its inspiration from Edward Schillebeeckx O.P. Then he gave the Aquinas lecture organized by DIT on Monday January 27th on "A temple for a complex world: the university in search of catholicity". The following day, on the feast of St-Thomas Aquinas, the community held its open house from 5 to 7 PM. It was well attended and the house was packed with friends of the community. As one priest who visited us said: "This is THE event in January in the Church of Toronto". This eventful week was concluded with the doctoral defense of our Dominican sister Carla Thomas, followed by a celebration in our house with the Caribbean community associated with Our Lady of Good Counsel.



Chronicle of Saint-Jean-Baptiste convent in Ottawa

fr. Guy Rivard

Happy tenants! (in shorter number...)

Hello to you, from the brothers in Ottawa. What can we say in this issue of Réseau about the Ottawa community, other than to share with you some sad news, at least for those of us who are staying, but at the same time some good news to console us from the bad.

The bad news is that our remaining youth is leaving us, Dieudonné for Vancouver, where he will take on the role of novice master, and Maxime for Leeuwen, where he will join the team setting up an English-language house of studies in philosophy and theology. Both will be leaving us in the summer. The good news is that Brother Jean-Paul Tagheu will be joining us, also in the summer. Then there's a glimmer of hope that a confrere from his province of Saint-Charles-Lwanga will also be joining us for a sabbatical year starting in fall. This will depend on whether or not he obtains a visa. We all know that in the present times, this is not a matter of course.

As for the rest, all is well. Daily life in our new little convent is very pleasant, with frequent visits from the brothers. We're delighted that the whole process of selling, signing a lease with the new owner and moving is behind us, and above all, that the end result is so good. Every time we see technicians of all kinds coming to do important work, sometimes on the roof, sometimes on the furnace, sometimes on important valves, we breathe a sigh of relief that these are bills that will no longer be borne by us, but by the new owner.

We are blessed in every way, and grateful to Providence for taking such good care of us.

On behalf of the Ottawa brothers, happy Lent!



Chronicle of the convent St-Albert-le-Grand

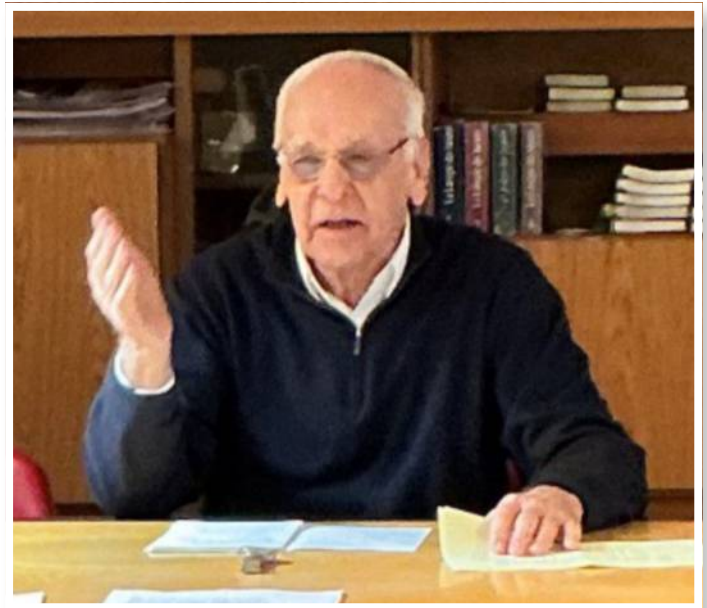
fr. Jean-Louis Larochelle

Migration flow

Over the past few months, we at St. Albert's convent have had a certain experience of what is known as a “migratory flow”. Indeed, we have seen brothers leave the convent and another enter...with the announcement of a second who should join us over the winter.

Among those who have left us is Brother Carlos Ariel Bétancourth, who returned to Colombia last November after more than six years here as parish priest of Santa Teresa de Avila. Over the past few months, we have also seen the departure of brothers Claude Noël, Pierre Métivier and Henri de Longchamp, who have moved on to homes for the frail. These departures have changed the face of our community. Some of our visitors have noticed! At the beginning of December, we welcomed brother Antonio Estavao, originally from Angola and belonging to the Dominican Province of Portugal. As soon as he arrived, he was asked to take on pastoral duties in the parish of Notre-Dame-de-Fatima (Portuguese cultural mission), in Laval. It was a bit of a change of scenery at first: the cold and snow took him by surprise! On the other hand, he felt right at home with the Portuguese-speaking parishioners! He now needs to deepen his knowledge of parishioners who are influenced by North American culture.

Last autumn, as usual, we celebrated Saint Albert the Great. We did so on November 22, instead of November 15, for diocesan “diplomatic” reasons. At Vespers, several people with whom we regularly collaborate accepted our invitation. After taking part in our prayer, they shared our table and took part in extended exchanges. At the end of the evening, we felt we had celebrated the figure of our patron saint with dignity, even if the physical setting for doing so had been considerably narrower than that experienced in the past.



Lately, we've had two ongoing formation meetings. On November 26, we were privileged to spend the morning with exegete Brother Michel Gourgues. He shared with us his familiarity with the evangelist Luke. He addressed us with the following title: The Gospel of Luke: “In my first book, O Theophilus”, some dominant facets. As usual, his presentation was highly structured and rigorous. We greatly appreciated the insights he offered. The



brothers who will be preaching on the liturgical texts from Luke's Gospel were particularly grateful! Then, on December 19, we welcomed those in charge of the pilgrimage to visit some of Quebec's aboriginal communities. Brother Ghislain Paris was fully involved in the organization of this pilgrimage. It should be noted that the Spiritours agency had been entrusted with the actual planning. Among the communities visited were the Abenaki community of Odanak (Nicolet-Yamaska region), the Huron-Wendat community of Wendake (near Quebec City), and the Innu community of Mashteuiatsh (near Roberval). A visit to these communities highlighted the challenges they face in maintaining their identity. Their practices for passing on their cultural heritage to younger generations of natives were an explicit demonstration of their creativity and resilience. What also struck us was the significant place given to Christianity by the spokespersons of these communities. One sign of this was the fact that, in the various communities we visited, guests were welcomed first and foremost in churches.

In January, we had the pleasure of welcoming brothers from convents in Ottawa and Quebec City. Probably to satisfy our curiosity, or to make us feel that we weren't the only ones living in disarray, they showed us the adaptations they've had to make in recent months. Their presentations focused on both apostolic and community dimensions. Speaking of adaptations, the firm that owns the building promises not to disturb us again from the end of February. In short, the physical work in the area we occupy would then be complete, and the new elevator would be operational. We dare to believe it...after more than two years of inconvenience! With this turning point, we suspect that our topics of conversation will change. Perhaps they'll focus more on the challenges of evangelization and the spiritual life!

Mardi Gras. The brothers of the community and the people who participated in the conventual Mass celebrated "Mardi Gras" with crêpes bretonnes, cake and pains au chocolat, courtesy of Patricia and Richard who shared the joy of their recent wedding on December 29. The couple met in our convent church, which they attend regularly.



At the beginning of January, a little festive moment in the company of Ukrainian workers who sang a traditional song.



Maison du Très-Saint-Rosaire

Fr. Jean-Jacques Robillard

Celebrating a Centennial!

This column will tell you about two happy events that have marked our life since the last Network.

The first took place on December 27, when the Dominicans and residents of the Séminaire de St-Hyacinthe joyfully celebrated the 100th birthday of Bro. Florian (Jourdain) Lavoie. At the jubilarian's own request, the event was held with simplicity and frugality - in other words, in the very image of the man who was the object of the celebration. On this occasion, a few members of his family came to present him with their best wishes and share a meal with him. He was presented with a magnificent bouquet to mark the occasion.

The second event, which took place on the eve of Valentine's Day, brought to mind a passage from the prophet Isaiah, given what we had been going through for almost six months.

“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak softly and tenderly to Jerusalem, make it clear to her that she has served her sentence, that her sin is forgiven! She has been punished enough, and more than enough, and now it's over.” (Isaiah 40:1-2)

These words from the prophet Isaiah take on a special meaning for Seminary residents today, February 14, the feast of Valentine's Day or Love. Indeed, we have regained the use of our elevator after almost six months during which we had to walk, not in the desert, but pacing the corridors of the École Casavant several times a day.

Mid-February brings us a new-found sense of freedom, as we can now move freely around the Seminary whenever we like. Some residents who were confined to the infirmary floor because of their age and mobility issues have regained the ability to join the community for Eucharist and meals. Everyone was delighted. We appreciate our new mobility and thank God for it.

We thank Bro. Raymond Latour for agreeing to be the Prior Provincial's “vicar to the friars” in our small Dominican community.

For the moment, we, like the rest of the province of Quebec, are buried under an imposing white blanket, which should thicken even further in the next few days.

To each and every one of you, we extend our greetings and our best wishes for the end of winter.



*Marguerite Chartrand Lavoie,
Christiane Trudeau, Daniel Viau,
André Lavoie and Sylvie Lavoie*

St-Dominique, Québec

Jacques Marcotte

Brief chronicle from Quebec City

There are two good reasons for the brevity of this column. Firstly, I had to write it in a bit of a hurry, and secondly, it's a fact that we had a fairly quiet winter season in Quebec City. Each brother was busy with his pastoral service or other mission, while convent life faithfully maintained its rhythm, pace and good humor.

We did have the pleasure of meeting a few visitors, including Mgr. Juan Carlos Londonio, the new auxiliary bishop of Quebec City. We appreciated his simplicity, his affability, his “Colombian” charm! We also had a visit from Abbé Pierre Gingras, canon and moderator of our pastoral region (the west half of Quebec City). We're his parishioners, even though we're relatively uninvolved in this milieu. It was a rapprochement. We'll probably have to meet him again to get a better idea of his expectations.

On two occasions, last October and mid-February 2025, the Provincial Council held its monthly meeting in Quebec City. Each time, it was an opportunity to meet confreres from

various convents. While offering them all the comfort and discretion they deserved, we were able to enjoy some pleasant moments of dialogue with them.

As has been the case for the past 3 years, the La Puissance du Rosaire group met here on the first Saturday in January. A gathering of Marian prayer and fellowship for people from the greater Quebec City area.

It's especially at the church of Saint-Dominique that our pastoral presence is most regular and assiduous, although our status there hasn't really taken full shape. The death of Mr. Serge Savaria, president of the Assemblée de fabrique, in the autumn, slowed down the process already underway to give shape to the integration of our ministry in this environment. However, a number of our brothers have taken initiatives that are making their mark. For example, a MASS OF THE DAWN... all by candlelight, very early in the morning every Monday of Advent. An impressive turnout! Congratulations! The



pastoral care of young families, in which several brothers participate, is becoming increasingly important: catechetical evenings; preparation for baptism of young adults, 7 catechumens; formation of a new Dominican lay fraternity with more than 15 young adults; catechesis for young children during Sunday Masses; a group preparing, with Br. Michel, for a pilgrimage to Compostela in June, etc. A lot of work to do!

You also need to have seen some of the PODCASTS, and read and listened to LE VERBE magazine productions on the web, to appreciate the truly professional work that our brothers Lamphone and Simon carry out, each in his own way, in the service of the Word. As for Brother François, he captured our hearts and imaginations by organizing the stay in Quebec City of a high-caliber Franco-Swiss mountaineer, Madame Sophie Lavoux. Her presence at the screening of the documentary film LE DERNIER SOMMET, at Le Clap, enabled many to hear her unique testimony, and more than 500 students from De Rochebelle high school welcomed her enthusiastically. A bold move by Br. François! Congratulations!

Brothers Métivier and Lespinay often join us on Thursday evenings for aperitifs and supper. It's great to enjoy their fraternal friendship and warm presence. Brother Tondreau also comes, but at lunchtime.

Finally, from mid-January to mid-February, we suffered the onslaught of gastroenteritis and influenza. Everyone was affected to varying degrees. We're bouncing back as best we can! Thanks to our brothers who provided the necessary replacements until the symptoms subsided. The nasty flu may not have said its last word... Winter's not over! Here's wishing us all: Good luck!



Dominican Missionary Adorers

Sr Yvette Blouin

Fanning the flame of hope

Greetings to you, brothers and sisters of the Canadian Dominican Family.

Like you, we have entered the year 2025 by welcoming its ecclesial jubilee. It will enable us to fan within ourselves and around us the fire of hope and to intercede on behalf of those many places where compassion, peace and the light of truth are lacking.

Here are just a few events as we enter 2025. After the Eucharistic celebration on January 1, we received greetings from our Prioress General, Sister Marlaire Lalancette. She invited us to take the path of hope with Mary as our companion. We then exchanged fraternal hugs and good wishes. In the evening, a power point presentation brought to life the most significant community and ecclesial moments of the past year.

On January 5, the solemnity of the Epiphany, we celebrated liturgically the manifestation of the Word, Light of the nations, and in the evening we celebrated recreationally the rich diversity of the Magi and the symbolism of their precious gifts. These Magi always challenge us to remain God-seekers by keeping our gaze fixed on his star, Jesus of Nazareth our Saviour,

whom it is good to celebrate with one heart and one soul for the glory of God and the salvation of the world, following the example of our father Saint Dominic.

On January 6, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the death of our foundress, Mother Julienne du Rosaire. Many of our friends and family were present at the morning Eucharistic celebration, and the tea party that followed provided an opportunity for fraternal exchanges and the sharing of fond memories of Mother Julienne du Rosaire. Many of those present knew our foundress well, and are still entrusting her with intentions and asking for her help.

On January 7, we resumed our apostolic activities. We remain humble laborers working to advance the Kingdom of God in our community. However, in these times of global geopolitical turmoil, we intercede for our country, for our neighbors and for those too many disadvantaged populations greatly wounded by the violence of war, insurrection or natural disasters, and the inhumane displacement some of them are forced to endure. We also remember that in these places of tension we have brothers and sisters of our Order.



On Thursday January 9, our Eucharistic Fraternity resumed its meetings at 7 p.m., with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by mass celebrated by Abbé Robert Côté. Our Thursday regulars were on hand.

Sunday January 29, at 1:30 p.m., saw the start of the New Year's Day of our great DMA Family, i.e. the meeting of the sisters of the Beauport convent with members of the Dominican Missionary Adorers Fraternity and couples from the Eucharistic Families movement. For the second time, we exchanged views on our common mission, our ways of communicating with each other and our possible collaborations. A joyful and intense fraternity was the order of the day. The afternoon ended with the celebration of Vespers. Around the supper table, nearly 70 people gathered. It was a wonderful time of sharing.

And on February 2, twelve DMAs (Dominican Missionary Adorers) travelled to the Canadian Montmartre for the celebration of Consecrated Life Day. Cardinal Gérald Cyprien Lacroix gave the conference and presided over the celebration of the Eucharist. Our sisters returned delighted with the day and the contact with sisters and brothers from other congregations in the diocese.

On February 3, our Prioress General, Sister Marlaine Lalancette, began her canonical visit to our convent in Beauport. We ask you to pray to Saint Dominic and the Virgin of the Rosary that this time may be one of luminous truth, joyful fraternity and apostolic blossoming in our own measure.

Three DMAs are currently pruning our library. We are parting with books that will be useful for the formation of the many seminarians in Burkina Fasso. This missionary act increases our joy of giving. In fact, a Burkinabe attendant works at the senior citizens' center where we go every Thursday.

Finally, on February 4, Sister Nathalie zoomed in on the continuation of her course with the nuns in formation across Canada, on the history of spirituality on Canadian soil. She finished with the 17th century and moved on to the 18th.

The nuns of the Beauport community wish you all the best as you make your way through the winter and into the Easter spring.



Chronicle of the mission in Japan - I

Brother Kôta Kanno

A time of transitions

An eventful political autumn in Japan

First came the general election for the House of Representatives (the lower house) of Parliament. Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, newly in office since October 1 following the resignation of Fumio Kishida and the ensuing internal Diet election, was hoping to increase his coalition's majority by calling early parliamentary elections on October 27. But his Liberal Democratic Party and its ally, the Kômeitô Party, lost the majority of seats. A rather surprising result for a party that has almost always been in power. For the first time since 2009, the opposition now has a majority. Despite this setback, Mr. Ishiba announced his intention not to resign, and was effectively re-elected Prime Minister by the Diet on November 11. However, he now heads a minority government.

With such a hung parliament situation, where the government remains is exposed to being overthrown at any time, autumn has thus brought with it a time of political turbulence in Japan. This is obviously frustrating in many ways, but it also creates a situation of greater transparency in parliamentary debates. We'll see what happens next.

Then, of course, there was the shock wave in Japan following the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States. I don't need to comment too much on the news, since you've no doubt felt the shockwaves at home too. Let us hope that reason will triumph in its own time.

Pastoral change at our conventual parish in Tôkyô

Many thanks to Brother Jean TANAKA

Autumn was also marked for the brothers and faithful of the Saint-Dominique parish of our Shibuya convent in Tôkyô, by a change in the pastoral team. On Sunday September 29, during a farewell celebration, Brother Jean Tanaka passed on the torch after more than 13 years as parish priest. These years have certainly marked a whole era in the parish, through a vibrant apostolic ministry right up to the very last moment, and his concern to reach out to and accompany all the faithful, children, adults and the elderly, notably through traditional Japanese celebrations and fraternal agape after mass (cf. photos 1 to 3, from previous years). Not to mention the many consultations and services rendered day after day.

During the farewell mass, Brother Tanaka recalled a memory of his studies in Canada. One of the brothers at the Ottawa Convent had suggested that he read the *Memoirs of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux*, in which the little Thérèse expresses her spiritual experience as “being empty-handed”. Since then, Brother Tanaka has often recalled the expression. He has told us that he has received so much with his “empty hands”. And now it's time to give them back to the faithful.

The faithful have certainly received much from Brother Tanaka's ministry too. Almost 200 people gathered around him for the occasion, many of them



1



2



3



from far and wide (see photo 4). The atmosphere was truly festive, despite the goodbyes. It was almost like an Easter or Christmas party. I thought to myself that, with “empty hands”, Brother Tanaka has welcomed so many men and women, and that it is with these hands that he has been able to create all these networks.

There's always a certain sadness in farewell celebrations, but also a feeling of deep gratitude, and a desire to continue nurturing the friendly, fraternal bonds that have been forged. That's why I'd like to take this opportunity to extend our warmest and most special thanks to Brother Jean, for his invaluable missionary commitment to the Parish and Convent of Saint-Dominique. A commitment that will now continue in different ways.

And welcome to the new pastoral team

At the beginning of October, a new team was presented to the faithful and took over the pastoral care of the parish. The new pastor priest, Brother Jean Miyamoto (see photo 5), has placed great emphasis on the sharing of responsibilities and the collaboration he wishes to see intensified among the brothers and with the faithful. Brother Jerzy Widomski (cf. photo 6) will take on the task of assistant pastor. Depending on their availability, other brothers from the Convent will also regularly assist the pastoral team with Sunday celebrations and numerous pastoral activities. In this way, a new dynamic is taking shape at the Convent. The faithful greatly appreciate all these efforts made by the brothers, and they themselves intend to continue to contribute actively to the full development of the parish's life. The months of October, November and December saw the resumption of regular activities, including the annual parish feast, the blessing of the children and Christmas celebrations, all of which went off without a hitch. Unfortunately, our parish photographer was unable to attend during this period, so I don't have any photos to show you.

Among these autumn events, let's not forget the special exhibition organized by our brother Gaston Petit to showcase his works, both in his Atelier and in the church and convent. It was a wonderful opportunity to reunite with people we haven't seen in a long time. Brother Michel GIARD presents this exhibition in the “Chronicle of the mission in Japan - II”.

Good news from Rome

In December, two people well known to the brothers in Japan were created cardinals by Pope Francis: Brother Timothy Radcliffe, our former Master of the Order, and Archbishop Isao Kikuchi, currently Archbishop of Tokyo. The two new cardinals will have much to contribute, I believe, to the good government of the Church. All the best to these two brothers.



4



5



6

Entering the New Year

The month of January began normally in Japan and for the brothers of the extraterritorial convent, formerly the vicariate of Japan, which is now 1 year old. We celebrated the regular conventual New Year chapter, followed by a festive meal and lively, rich fraternal exchanges.

Meanwhile, for those of you who work in universities, the famous entrance exam period has

arrived (cf. photo no. 7, taken at the University of Tokyo by the newspaper Japan Today). This year, as usual, I myself acted as supervisor for the entrance exams at Nagoya's Nanzan University, where I am a lecturer. As you no doubt know, the stress of these entrance exams are such that, every year, there are dramas of all kinds. It's very stressful. I imagine that in Canada, we don't have this kind of pressure for entrance exams. Let's hope that this year, everyone can keep hope in the future.



7

Chronicle of the mission in Japan - II

Michel Giard

Artistic recidivism

Our young colleague Gaston Petit will celebrate this year, his 95th birthday, he refuses to throw in the towel. He is going there for a second exhibition of his works. And this time, he is thinking even bigger. Two days: Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 October, The parishioners of our church of Saint-S-São Paulo Dominique will participate after the after the Sunday Eucharist at 10 a.m.

In addition, he has worked with his long-term partners to develop date, Mr. Patrick Pachon and his wife Mrs. Kiyomi, a guided tour concept that began with the two floors of his studio and the courtyard that

gives access to it, to then go to the church, via the basement and by the entrance hall of the Convent.

The goal was to introduce less familiar people to these works who somehow live with us on our walls.

A didactic component also accompanied the whole. These were explanatory texts written in English, which translated into Japanese, and which were arranged to be appropriate places. Texts shedding light, here and there, on lesser-known aspects of his work, but also, For non-believers who are interested, texts explaining certain religious symbols of the Church.

Over the course of the 2 days, it is estimated that around 200 people visited the exhibition. Given the limited format of Network, it is obviously out of the question to show you the entire exhibition. But while including more general photos, which reflect the atmosphere of the event, I offer you among the works three favorites that have, in this case, been the subject of explanatory texts by Gaston, texts in English that I would like to share with you. transmit in full.

For the more curious, the Code R on the right will take you to the website created expressly for the exhibition.



The more complete website of Brother Gaston Petit:
<https://gastonpetitop.ca>;

The online store:
<https://gastonpetit.base.shop/>

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE EXHIBITION

Photo n°2__Les brothers Kôta KANNO and Jerzy WIDOMSKY in the courtyard giving access to the workshop of Brother Gaston PETIT where the greatest works had been arranged

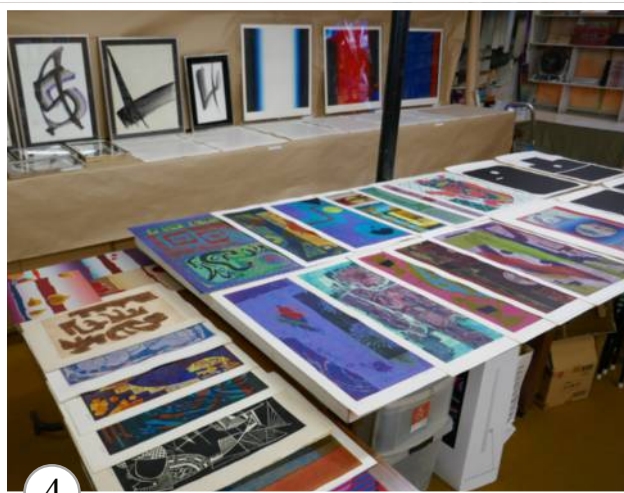
Photo n°3__Le Brother PETIT in front of a collection of prints on the first floor of his studio, which serves as his storeroom.

Photo n°4__Collection of prints on the second floor of the workshop, in the main room

Photo n°5__Some visitors on the second floor of the workshop, in the main room

Photo n°6__ Brother PETIT in front of a collection of paintings in the basement of Shibuya Convent

Photo n°7__Vitreaux at the main entrance of Shibuya Church



THREE FAVORITES



Photo n°8__Painting representing Saint Symon of Cyrene in the entrance hall of the Convent

The Way of the Cross is a traditional devotion narrating the last moments in the life of Jesus in twelve sections (or Stations).

Having been condemned to be flogged and crucified, Jesus had to walk carrying his cross from the city, Jerusalem, to a small elevation outside the city, Golgotha. Exhausted Jesus felt three times on the way according to the narrative. The last time Jesus felt, the soldiers ordered a passerby by the name of Simon to help Him carry the cross. (Mat. 27:32)

This scene of Simon helping Jesus, the fifth Station of The Way of the Cross, was painted in 2004, and is part of a series of oil paintings. G.P.



Photo n°9__The tabernacle of the Shibuya church

The TABERNACLE is the most precious object in a catholic church for it contains the consecrated bread of the Eucharist in a covered container. The consecrated bread is kept for two purposes, for private devotion and for giving it to sick parishioners.

The tabernacle can have many sizes and many forms. In this church it has the form of a triptych (three sections on hinges) recalling some alterpieces displayed above the altar in some European churches. The tabernacle here is in a gold and laquer square box in the center. Two icons depicting the Annunciation and the Rising of Lazarus were painted specially on my request by a russian artist living in Rome.

The concept of this tabernacle is mine. It was realized in Montreal by my assistant Normand Rondeau in 2000. The relief of the surface is composed of wood, plaster and metal. The whole surface was covered with thick foil and plated with white gold. To see the forms on the surface more precisely, a colored laquer finish has been applied and rubbed over. G.P.



10

*Photo n°10_Brother PETIT in front of a collection of "Ofukuro"
On the second floor of the workshop, in the main room.*

My first summer in Japan was lived in a fishermen's hamlet, practicing the language with the handful of children of the location and writing calligraphy. There I learned the word OFUKURO from children. A word which warmly means 'mamy'. What is special about this word is that only a boy could tell of his mother as OFUKURO.

Several years later, the japanese characters of OFUKURO in the dictionary caught my intellect. The two characters say 'Noble bag'. This literal meaning of the characters had a heartfelt psychological shock in me. Never, under any circumstances, would a French-speaking boy refer to his mother as a bag, even a noble one. An astute psychological shock that made me think for a long time. It's true, my mother's belly was a bag. And noble. For it gave me life, love and the DNA which made me who I am.

Over the years, OFUKURO took hold of me. In the 90's I collected a quantity of bags, shopping bags of all kinds. I often transformed them, cut them up, altered or deformed them, I associated them with other materials or subjects. In short I made a great number of works of art with bags. I even painted the ordinary rectangular brown paper bag several times. Sometimes like a woman's torso on one side of the bag, or with a woman's head cunningly coming out from the bag.

Thus the long series of OFUKURO lived with me during many months and still remains very special to me. G.P.

OP Laity

Daniel Cadrin, OP, provincial promoter

News from the Fraternities

Meeting: In Toronto, on November 9, a Dominican Family Day brought together lay members, apostolic sisters and brothers at our Sacré-Coeur parish. Two temporary commitments were made during the Eucharist: one from a member of the Luce Veritas Fraternity and one from the Rosario Fraternity. The latter, Chinese-speaking and in which 11 members made their first commitment in August, has been formally recognized by the Bishop of Toronto.

Commitments: On December 8, at Saint-Dominique Church in Quebec City, eight members of the new Sainte-Catherine de-Sienne Fraternity, made up of young adults, made their first temporary commitment.

Formation: At its January 20 meeting, the Provincial Council of the Lay O.P. appointed a Provincial Formation Committee, co-chaired by Sylvie Latreille and Renaldo Battista of the Albert-le-Grand Fraternity. It will be responsible for preparing formation programs and establishing a directory of resource persons.

DLIP: The next meeting of the Dominican Leadership Inter-Provincial, a North American grouping, will take place in the spring. The president of the Canadian lay OP., Benoit Des Roches, will be attending by zoom rather than in person, with the agreement of his provincial council, for the following reason: We feel uncomfortable crossing the U.S. border as long as disrespect from the US administration towards our country prevails.

Religious Assistant: Br. Yves Bériault, Prior Provincial, has appointed br. Gustave Ineza, of the Toronto priory, as religious assistant to the Luce Veritas Fraternity in Mississauga. He succeeds Mary Baier.

Census: In recent years, some Fraternities have completed their journey, while others have begun. A census of all Fraternities in the Province of Canada is currently underway. It will give us a better idea of the locations and demographics of our presence.

“A picture is worth a thousand words”

This adage, commonly attributed to Confucius, underlines the importance of the visual in preserving the historical memory of any human group. This is particularly true of the Audio-Visual Archives of the Province of Saint-Dominique in Canada.

Photos allow us to visualize the important events, both happy and tragic, that have marked the history of the Province. The titanic work of Brother Jules-Antonin Plourde deserves special mention: for almost 15 years, he covered and illustrated the Province's major and minor events in numerous brochures and in the Réseau-Journal from 1975 to 1990. Brother Raymond Latour has taken over, this time illustrating in color photos what's happening in our communities. We must thank him for making Dominican life in Canada known in this way, both in print and in pictures.

The Dominican Archives contain almost 100,000 photos, about a quarter of which have been digitized and stored on an external hard drive. In this way, they preserve a visual memory of the events, large and small, that have marked the history of the Dominicans in Canada. The advent of digital technology threatens to change all that. Printed photos are a thing of the past. They are now stored on computers, tablets, cell phones and, I hope, sometimes on external hard drives. There's a real risk that they'll be lost if they aren't preserved in duly constituted archives, such as the Archives of the Province, which will make possible the transfer of the data to new, more efficient media.

For several years now, the Provincial Archives have no longer been receiving photos of the major and minor events in our history, such as General and Provincial Chapters, provincial assemblies and all the other activities that punctuate the life of our communities. By way of example, the latest

photos that we have of a General Chapters are those of the 2010 general chapter; for Provincial Chapters, we have nothing for the chapters from 2006 to 2014, and nothing from the 2022 chapter; as for the provincial assemblies, we have nothing for the assemblée celebrated since 2018; and for the convents, almost nothing since the advent of digital technology. Yet some brothers have taken photos with their cell phones, but don't think to send them to the PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES: archivesartefacts@dominicains.ca . Don't hesitate to send them, via the Internet, to pass on to future generations what life was like in this period of our Province's history. Don't be in any doubt about the advisability of sending a large number of them, as it's my job as an archivist to sort out what can or must be preserved or not.

The Archives are interested not only in major events, but also in everything that marks the life of our communities, such as jubilees, local festivals and, above all, significant liturgical and apostolic activities.

It's also vital to have your personal photos in the Archives, as well as the official ones you'd like to see used in Réseau. The Archives are also interested in having photos of the convents, both inside and out, of the various premises, especially when renovation work is being undertaken. In this way, we can see how the setting for Dominican life has evolved over time.

We hope that this “S.O.S Photos” will find an echo among the brothers and in the communities: the aim is to preserve for future generations an image of what our Province was like during this period of its history.

Brother Yves Cailhier, op

Provincial Audiovisual Archivist

Development and Peace pays tribute to Michel Côté

The National Council of Development and Peace, Caritas Canada, meeting in Montreal on February 13, paid tribute to Brother Michel Côté, associated with the organization since 1970. From now on, the interpretation room will bear the name of the man who, in everyone's opinion, knows Development and Peace best. In addition to his work as an interpreter, he was founder of Development and Peace's theological committee in the 1970s. He also worked as a social justice facilitator for some forty years, criss-crossing Canada from East to West.

Acting General Manager Luke Stocking was quick to point out that Development and Peace had benefited from Brother Michel's services as a theologian, spiritual guide and, he added with emotion, a friend who "always speaks with love". The plaque identifying the interpretation room clearly indicates this, with the quotation from ICo 13:1 "I may speak in all languages... but if I do not have love...". For Brother Michel, Development and Peace is the organization that promotes solidarity between human beings. He wanted to serve it with the conviction that everyone is a reflection of the divine.

In a speech tracing his career path, Brother Michel recalled that it was somewhat by chance that he came to interpreting, a career that was improvised but already prepared by a totally bilingual upbringing, Michel having been born to a Franco-Albertan father, himself a translator, and an Irish mother. "I was anglophone for francophones and francophone for anglophones", he says. He sees his entire career as an interpreter as "a gift from God". Illness forced him to put an end to it, but a whole team of interpreters (French, English, Spanish, German, Japanese...) continued his work with the same values and the same quality.

Normally, a homage reception does not require interpretation services, but the many speeches of gratitude and affection for Brother Michel had to be heard by all who expressed themselves in the language of the heart. It was a celebration that bore witness to the deep bond between the organization and Brother Michel Côté, a bond that from now on even the walls of Development and Peace will speak of.

Raymond Latour, o.p.



Letter from Ukraine

Dear sisters, dear brothers,

“I am trying to remember how it was before the war. It is so hard,” said Father Misha when we ran into each other at the door of our warehouse filled with humanitarian supplies. He seemed to be surprised by his own emotions. It was a beautiful sunny day in Kherson with a chill in the air. Yet as we were unloading multiple tons of flour by hand, we couldn’t feel the cold. Similarly, we didn’t pay much attention to the repeated sound of distant explosions that we could hear from this frontline city of southern Ukraine. The flour we brought was for the bakery and kitchen which supply the people in need and are run by the House of Saint Martin de Porres. Every morning they make hundreds of loaves of bread. The bakery workers had quickly learned to bake the finest bread, rolls, and sweet pastries. We all do everything we can to make sure that what we hand out to the city’s citizens is of the highest quality. I understand what Father Misha means. It is very hard to remember what our life looked like before February 24, 2022 — the day that the first Russian rockets fell on our country just before dawn. Probably everyone who experienced those days in Ukraine has similar difficulties with their memory. Three years is not such a long time, but for us, these three years have seemed like an eternity.

I’m writing to you from Ukraine as we mark yet another anniversary of the beginning of the full-scale war. With every passing month, everyone in the world is increasingly tired of it. This exhaustion is revealed by our numb reaction to the constant stream of information about each new rocket attack, about the tragedy in Kryvyi Rih of a 45-year-old woman heavily wounded by shrapnel who died in the doorway of her own home on January 17, or about the people who burned in their own car the next morning as a result of the explosion of a Russian rocket next to the Lukianivska subway station not far from our priory. Nothing is captivating about this chronicle of war.

Ruined residential buildings, schools, hospitals, factories, and bridges do not create a landscape that should normally command our attention. Nevertheless, this reminder of the painful wounds inflicted on the nation of Ukraine — and on all who feel connected to this country — by Russian aggression becomes a call for the truth. None of us who are eyewitnesses to what has been going on in Ukraine over the past three years have any doubts about who started this war and who it is aimed against.

Nataliya, who took shelter in our Kyiv priory with her elderly parents during the first months of the war, recently invited us to the launch of a book to which she contributed. One of the Ukrainian organizations had asked twenty-five civilians to share their experiences of life under Russian occupation.

Their stories were collected in an extraordinary book entitled: *When They Don’t Knock on Your Doors*. The authors are regular people whose lives were changed by war so suddenly that they didn’t even have time to run from the approaching Russian tanks. In her short testimony, Nataliya described the columns of armored vehicles passing by her house near Bucha and Hostomel as well as the Russian soldiers searching her house looking for the “Nazis” and then mentioned the pact she made with her parents that if one of them is killed, the others will bury the deceased in the garden. She also included a story about their animals: “My elderly parents had two old dogs that suffered during the explosions. They would twist their ears, and sometimes they would stop recognizing us. One of them bit my dad on the hand and then whimpered for a long time, lowering his eyes and feeling guilty. The dogs did not survive the occupation.

One day, a beautiful Dobermann found her way to us. She would bark at us but then would beg for food. We fed her the same kasha that we ate ourselves and that we fed our cats and dogs. The car with the family of the Dobermann’s owners had been shot on the road

next to our house while they had been trying to evacuate through the so-called ‘Green Corridor’.” I thought about Nataliya’s story when I saw a terrified dog running into the charity kitchen building in Kherson. “Kuzia is very afraid of explosions,” one of the volunteers explained to me while gently patting the dog. We made some room for it so that the dog could feel safe. Loud explosions continued outside.

In the very heart of Kyiv is a historical building of the old port on the Dnieper River. It was built over sixty years ago and until recently served as the main administration building of the Port of Kyiv. For the past three years, the building has housed a Ukrainian-American University and flies the flags of both countries from the roof.

The university is not far from the place where — according to the legend — Saint Hyacinth walked on the waves of the Dnieper. He carried in his hands the Blessed Sacrament and the statue of Our Lady as he escaped from the Tatars. This is how the Polish saint is represented in iconography, and this is how the pilgrims visiting St. Peter’s Square in Rome can easily recognize him among the saints in Bernini’s colonnade.

I am not mentioning St. Hyacinth by accident. The Rector of the American University in Kyiv, Professor Jacek Leśkow, had stopped by our priory while tracing St. Hyacinth’s footprints in Kyiv. We in turn planned to go visit the school that he supervises. Brother Marek, Brother Zdzisław, and I just recently returned from our trip to the modern and quickly growing university. As we sat in its old, solid walls holding meticulously restored mosaics from long ago, we discussed the future of Ukraine. Currently, the biggest challenge is to create possibilities of growth for young people so that they can decide to stay in the country and invest their knowledge and talents here. Unfortunately, every passing year — or even every passing month — of war makes the Ukrainian demographic outlook increasingly difficult.

A dramatic decline in birth rate, almost triple growth in deaths as well as a huge wave of emigration — this is what Ukraine brings into the fourth year of full-scale war with Russia. According to research from the Ukrainian Institute for Demography and Social Studies, in mid-2024, thirty million people lived in territories controlled by Ukrainian authorities while nine million remained outside their country. “How these numbers are going to change depends in large part on the length of the war and on how it ends,” said Ella Libanova, Director of the Institute, emphasizing how important it is that so many people saved their lives and well-being by running from the war. “In this respect, I do not have the support of many of our experts, but I don’t know of any higher value than human life,” she said. “These people have survived. Their children have survived. Thanks be to God. Even if we cannot bring back all of them. And certainly we will not bring them all back. In the past I dreamed of about a sixty percent return rate, then about fifty percent; now it would be great if one-third came back to Ukraine.”

Stanisław Marcisz is from Wrocław, Poland and has been a volunteer at the House of Saint Martin in Fastiv since July 2022. When I asked him how it happened that he decided to move to Ukraine a couple of months after the beginning of the war, he told me about his hiking trip from Holland to Georgia and about the kindness and generosity that he had experienced from many people, as well as the words of his father: “You are opening a debt that you will have to pay one day.” As he listened to the “Notes from Ukraine” read by Father Szustak, he decided to begin another trip that still hasn’t ended. During his stay in Ukraine, Stanisław worked as a volunteer driver and traveled tens of thousands of kilometers on humanitarian missions. “I feel that what we are doing makes sense, that you are needed, that you do what needs to be done,” said Stanisław. “This is what keeps me here. Sometimes I ask myself why I should be here. After all, it was not my war and not my country. The only thing

that was mine was the pack of cigarettes in the car. But then we went to Kharkiv, to the Donbas, to Kherson. We saw people, we looked them in the eyes, we helped them — and it made sense. It was important for me as a Christian, as a Catholic, and as a human person. No judgment, just help. This is the true Church of Christ.”

This need for meaning, this hunger for it, and the feeling of being lost that is experienced by so many people is described also by Bishop Mykola Luchok, a Dominican Ordinary of one of the Ukrainian dioceses. He sees this search for meaning as the greatest challenge facing us today. “How can we live in the country that is falling apart? How can we live in this world? This is an existential crisis, not just a sociological or geopolitical one.” Bishop Mykola from Mukachevo in Zakarpattia does not shy away

from conversations about difficult life issues, and I am not surprised that so many people from Lviv came to the meeting for the launch of his book, “In Search of a Master”. A similar meeting is planned in Kyiv.

Dear sisters and dear brothers, I would like to thank every one of you for your prayer, for your kindness shown to us in so many ways, for your material support, and for your closeness which for us is one of the faces of hope. Three years are behind us! What is ahead? We trust that the long-awaited peace will come.

With gratitude, greetings, and request for prayer,

Jarosław Krawiec OP





Dominicains.ca/en