



RÉSEAU

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**PROVINCE
SAINT- DOMINIQUE
DU CANADA**

Éditeur : Fr. Raymond LATOUR, op

Infography : Gabriel PROVOST

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

In the West as in the East, many new things!



In the West, many new things! In the East too! As this issue of RÉSEAU will surely convince you. The desire to establish a presence in the Western part of the country, which dates back about thirty years, now seems to be taking shape. A novitiate has been established in Vancouver and welcomed its first novices on the eve of the feast of Saint Augustine, at the end of August. After a few years of scarcity, this new sprout of life is a great encouragement for the development of the Order in this region of the country.

The Nuns of Squamish, on the feast of our 'father' Saint Francis, celebrated on October 4th the 25th anniversary of their establishment in British Columbia. It is somewhat as if the original model of the Order's foundation (Dominic first founded the community of the Nuns of Prouilhe) is being replicated here. The bonds of communion with the entire Dominican family were clearly evident during the celebration at the Squamish monastery. The nuns have succeeded in integrating contemporary values while preserving the heritage of the Order's long tradition, as noted by their chaplain, fr. Pierre Leblond. They have created an environment that radiates peace and joy, a 'place of rest,' in the true sense of the term, as emphasized by our brother Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe in his homily. Fr. Timothy was the driving force behind the arrival of the nuns in Western Canada. It should be noted that our current provincial prior, Brother Yves Bériault, accompanied the sisters in their search for a location, which turned out to be

Squamish, a majestic site. One had to hear the founding sisters recount the story of these humble beginnings to grasp the remarkable fruitfulness of the venture.

In the East as well, many new things! Fr. Lamphone Phonevilay, promoter of the Rosary (a role that had been dormant for a good decade), led a celebration to mark the feast on October 7. And on the 18th, the Feast of the Evangelist Luke, he himself was the subject of a celebration as Bishop Jean Tailleux conferred the diaconal ordination upon him at Saint-Dominique Church. He will be involved in the smooth running of the "Saint-Dominique" project, which is still seeking a designation ("sanctuary"? "space"?). Things are becoming clearer, and the project, already well underway, will officially start in January 2026.

Moreover, the countdown to the next provincial chapter, which will be celebrated in July 2026 in Toronto, has begun. The convocation has been issued. Soon commissions will be formed. A committee is already considering holding preparatory sessions next June. About twenty brothers will take part in the chapter, including one-third coming from the vicariate of Rwanda and Burundi and the extraterritorial convent of Japan. It will be a moment to identify and analyze the different challenges to envision the next four years from East to West and beyond! All of this must be firmly rooted in prayer and a renewed conviction of the correctness of Saint Dominic's founding intuition.

Word from the Prior provincial

Announcing Jesus Christ: a grace to beg for, a fire to share

Back from the celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of the arrival of our nuns in Vancouver — an event where all branches of the Dominican family were present — I gave thanks to God for belonging to this family passionate about proclaiming the Gospel. The title of a book by Fr. Jean-Marie Tillard on religious life came to mind: *Before God and for the World*. This title aptly expresses the fundamental challenge of any project of religious life: a commitment that is both a service to the world — to which we belong — and an intimate relationship with the Lord.

As brothers and sisters of the Order of Saint Dominic, we are sent to men and women who expect from us a clear and credible word about the mystery of faith. A faith that we share with

them, which we are called to proclaim and live. Studies and rhetoric, however valuable, can never replace personal experience of faith, which remains the primary source of all preaching and teaching. But how can we grasp this experience of faith? How can we grow in it? How can we learn to speak about it?

First, there is grace. The grace of preaching, so well described by Brother Simon Tugwell, is an integral part of the Dominican charism. It is its foundation. Of course, this grace is a gift. But this gift requires our cooperation. It becomes alive and effective to the extent of our sincere desire to receive it — not out of self-interest or pride, but because, in prayer, in encounters with others, in ministry, we sense the urgency of proclaiming this Good News that dwells within us.

How could we keep for ourselves alone this joy of believing? This Good News compels us: "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel," said Saint Paul. To remain silent would, in a sense, denying ourselves as well as the mystery that dwells within us and that God calls us to proclaim. We must therefore ask for this grace, humbly beg it from God.

The second condition for entering into this grace of preaching is the daily engagement with the Word of God. It is this Word that must inspire our words, our actions, our prayer, our faith. The psalmist mocks the pagan idols that "have eyes and do not see, a mouth and do not speak." But our God, the God of Jesus Christ, is a God who speaks, a God who is close, closer to us than we are to ourselves.



God reveals Himself and wants to make Himself known to us. One of the privileged places of this revelation is Scripture. The Word of God is not primarily meant to be read, but to be received. While the words of men are assimilated, the Word of God transforms us. It shapes us. It assimilates us to itself — as Madeleine Delbrel so rightly said. We must enter it like Moses before the burning bush, on Mount Horeb, by taking off our sandals. In other words,

by shedding our preconceived ideas and personal plans, to allow God to shape us through His Word. And always keep deep in our hearts this prayer: "What do you expect from your servant?"

This is an essential condition of the service to which our religious vocation commits us.

PRIOR PROVINCIAL'S AGENDA

- October 22: Meeting with diocesan authorities regarding the Saint-Dominique church project
- October 23-25: Installation of Brother Gustave Ineza in Toronto
- October 28 to November 9: Accompaniment of Brother Marc Chauveau of the Province of France for the presentation of his exhibition on the restoration of Notre-Dame de Paris in Montreal and Quebec City
- November 2: Installation of Brother Estevão (date to be confirmed)
- November 8-9: Presidency at Saint-Dominique Church
- November 10: Provincial Council (Quebec)
- November 12 to 15: Meeting with the provincials of the Province of France and Belgium
- November 16 to 28: Visit to the vicariate of Rwanda and Burundi
- December 1 to 6: Canonical visit to Saint Albert the Great Convent
- December 8: Extended Provincial Council (Montreal)
- December 12-14: Visit to the nuns of Squamish
- December 15-16 and 22: Canonical visit to the convent of Vancouver
- December 17-21: Visit with the Regent of Studies to the studentate of Oakland
- December 24-27: Christmas with the brothers of Ottawa

TOWARDS THE STATUS OF VICE-PROVINCE

The new team of the Rwanda and Burundi Vicariate Council, which has just taken office, fortunately faces a roadmap carefully developed by the previous team, which they are called upon to implement while adapting it to the circumstances of the moment.

This roadmap is primarily intended to lead towards the Vice-Province. It will probably be necessary to set up a new schedule, as the one that was planned has already been surpassed. In particular, the final touches will need to be put on the 2024-2027 strategic plan, which is meant to guide the Vicariate during the coming years and whose elaboration is almost complete. The second vicariate chapter, which should take place before the provincial chapter of 2026, will serve this purpose.

On this path towards the Vice-Province, two issues will particularly concern the Vicariate: the establishment of our communities and the supervision of recruitment and training. Today, our various communities are at the limit of what they should be: the number of friars has reached a minimal level. One of the immediate concerns is to expand and enliven our communities, both to meet the required standards and to provide better apostolic services. Fortunately, the high number of deacons allows us to hope for a quick succession.

A Vice-Province and, later, a Province, require a significant number of friars. For this, it will certainly be necessary to improve the recruitment of young brothers both in terms of quantity and quality. So far, as noted in the self-assessment document, "we have not yet achieved a more proactive and sustained promotion of vocations, that is to say, a situation where it is the vocation promoter who seeks them out or sparks them in schools, parishes, vocation groups, etc." Indeed, we are waiting for candidates to approach us spontaneously. On the other hand, a sort of restraint due to our capacity for hosting and supervision has become the rule: we have a maximum number of candidates that we can accept. When we have the Studium in the Vicariate, this limitation will become

less strict, especially since we will need to rely on a certain critical mass to justify the teachings in the Studium.

Our various apostolic commitments, both communal and individual, continue to occupy the friars. It is worth noting that for the coming years, three flagship community projects should capture the attention of the entire Vicariate in general and each of the three constituent entities in particular: the Saint Martin de Porres Center in Mbandazi, on the outskirts of Kigali; the Studium of Philosophy and Theology in Bujumbura and its extension in Gitega in connection with the Salamanca process; and the Center for Social and Spiritual Renewal in Nyagatare.

The Convent of Kigali is in the process of launching the Saint Martin de Porres Center in Mbandazi, a specialized complex aimed at the psychosocial rehabilitation of vulnerable people, welcoming the elderly, as well as peri-urban socio-economic and ecological production; it will also be a center for research and professional technical training. For the Convent of Bujumbura, the extensive Dominican University project of the Vicariate is expected to begin with the Studium of Philosophy and Theology, whose construction is underway with financial support from the Province.

For the Nyagatare house, it is a Welcome and Socio-Spiritual Rejuvenation Center that is already off to a good start, but it requires infrastructure that meets the level of demand. Thanks again to funding from the Province, construction will also begin soon.

Here, of course, arises the thorny question of financing these infrastructures. The latest observation from the Roadmap highlights this clearly: "The issue of financing the infrastructures that the 3 communities will need deserves special attention and sustained follow-up in the coming years."



In our network

Elections

-In the vicariate of Rwanda and Burundi: Fr. Liboire Kagabo was elected provincial vicar during the Elective Chapter on August 4, 2025.

The elected councilors are Friars Cyprien Ntibankundiye, Ézéchiél Rivuzimana, and Christian Rudahunga Mihanda. Fr. Désiré Bizimana was elected as an auxiliary councilor. It should be noted that Friar Guy Rivard served as the moderator/facilitator of the chapter while friars Emmanuel Durand and Didier Caenepeel supervised the electronic election process.

-Friar Jacques Marcotte was elected prior of the Saint-Dominique's Priory in Quebec (August 26).

-Friar Guy Rivard was re-elected prior of the Saint-Jean-Baptiste's Priory in Ottawa (September 17).



Professions

Simple profession at the vicariate of Rwanda and Burundi:

-Friar-novice Charles Niyonzima made his simple profession.

-Friars Frederich Ndengeyingoma, Audace Kwizera, Pévis Njemubumwe, Parfait Aristide Irakoze, Thierry Kwizera, Sarathiel Nzabonimpaye, Léonce Ngendakumana, Édouard Nijimbere, Emmanuel Ndiokubwayo, Didier Nkuzimana, Didier Iringiruwiteka renewed their simple profession for one year.

Solemn Profession

- At our Squamish monastery, two sisters made their solemn profession: Sister Elizabeth Marie on August 6 and Sister Marie Étienne on August 15.

-In the vicariate of Rwanda and Burundi, friar Axel Shaka made his solemn profession on August 8.

In our network

Appointments and Nominations-etc...

-Friar Liboire Kagabo appointed Brother Désiré Bizimana, prior of the Saint-Dominique convent in Kigali, as his socius (October 12, 2025)

- Friar Bonaventure KAMBAZI was appointed as Syndic of the vicariate of Rwanda and Burundi.

- Friar Symphorien Ntibagirirwa, prior of the Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin convent in Bujumbura, was appointed as Promoter of Studies for the vicariate of Rwanda and Burundi (October 12, 2025)

- Friar Sixbert Hategekimana was instituted as Master of Novices of the Saint-Dominique convent in Kigali (October 7, 2025)

- Friar Gilles Simard was appointed as assistant brother for the lay fraternity "Mysteria Lucis" in Vancouver, for a period of three years (October 2025)

- Friar Guy Lespinay is assigned to the Saint-Albert-le-Grand convent (Basile-Moreau house), on June 26, 2025.

-Friar Martin Farrell is assigned to the St. Catherine of Siena community (Priory, New York). He will be chaplain of the Nuns (June 2025).

-Friar Dieudonné Bigirimana has been confirmed as Vicar to the Master of the Order for the Nuns of Squamish, Queen of Peace Monastery (July 4, 2025).

-Friar Pierre Leblond is assigned to St. Mary's Convent in Vancouver (August 28, 2025).

-Friar Dieudonné Bigirimana is assigned to St. Mary's Convent in Vancouver (August 27, 2025).

-Friar Jean-Louis Larochelle has been residing at the Basile-Moreau House since mid-August.

-Friar Jean-Paul Tagheu arrived in Ottawa on August 21. Assigned to the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Convent, he will take on a pastoral role at the Saint-Jean-Baptiste parish. Assigned to Ottawa (September 10, 2025). He is now a member of the convent council.

-Friar Antonio Estevão has been appointed director of the Notre-Dame-de-Fatima mission (August 27). -Brother Josq Apolinario is interim pastor at Santa Teresa d'Avila in Montreal. - Brother

-Friar Bruno Demers was assigned to the Saint Albert the Great Convent (September 1, 2025)

- Friar Prakash Lohale began his new duties at the Mary Ward Center in Toronto in early September.

- Friar Minlib has been assigned to his home province in the United States (September 2025).

- The project "Saint Dominic Space" is expected to be launched around January 2026. Friar François Pouliot will serve as the responsible priest, while Friar Michel Grenier will act as assistant priest, and Friar Lamphone Phonevilay, will be the assistant deacon.

- Friar Gustave Ineza was installed as pastor of the Sacred Heart Parish in Toronto on October 26. He succeeds Friar Hervé Tremblay. In the picture fr. Gustave is in the center with the Bishop, Mgr. Robert Kasum.

- Canonical erection and establishment of the Most Holy Rosary Shrine fraternity on July 22, 2025, in Alberta.



In our network

-Sisters of Saint Cecilia: inauguration of their new convent this summer in Vancouver. (In the photo, the sisters of the community are flanked by friars Yves Bériault and Raymond Latour, during the 25th anniversary celebration of Queen of Peace, Squamish.

-4 sisters from the Dominican Sisters of the Trinity of the Philippines have arrived on mission in Vancouver

-Friar Simon Lessard is beginning his bachelor's degree in theology in Lyon.

-Friar Raphael Manikiza-Uwineza is enrolled in a doctoral program in theology in Louvain-la-Neuve. Fr. Damien Dufitimana is in his third year of studies at the same place. Friar Jean Népomucène is starting a doctorate at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland.

-The provincial prior has sent a convocation to all the brothers of the province for the provincial chapter to be held in Toronto, in July 2026. The commissions as well as the composition of the electoral colleges will be announced shortly.

-Friar Marc Chauveau, from the Province of France, visiting Canada from October 28 to November 9. He is an art specialist. Lectures in Montreal and Quebec City.

-On October 4th, the 25th anniversary of the arrival of the Dominican nuns in Vancouver. Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, who originated the project, was among the guests for this celebration, as well as the provincial prior and his socius.

-The provincialate will be moving to its new premises in November, in the building housing the provincialate of the Religious of Holy Cross, located near the Basile-Moreau House.

-Mr. Denis Rochon is joining the provincialate team: a small welcome party at the end of September to mark the occasion. After a year of training, he will take over from Mr. Sylvain Bossé as Assistant to the Provincial Syndic, Fr. André Descôteaux.



The provincial team from left to right: Mr. Sylvain Bossé, Mr. François Nadeau, Fr. Raymond Latour, Mr. Denis Rochon, the provincial prior, Fr. Yves Bériault, and the brothers André Descôteaux and Yves Cailhier. Not shown in the photo are Mrs. Gisèle Hébert, Mr. Tony Ciccy of the Works of Saint Jude, and Fr. Gustave Nsengiyumva, provincial secretary.



Contract signing !

In our network

Novitiate

The vicariate of Rwanda and Burundi welcomed novices: Innocent Nibigira, Placide Niyitanga, and Adronis Iranyongeye are now novice-friars.

In Canada: MM. Andrew Angelo Antes and Andrew Jacob Heakes received the habit on the vigil of the feast of Saint Augustine, on August 27. The Vespers service was presided over by the provincial prior, friar Yves Bériault.



Diaconal Ordination

Brother Lamphone Phonevilay was ordained a deacon on October 18 by Bishop Jean Tailleux at Saint-Dominique Church in Quebec.



General Chapter

Participation of the provincial prior in the general chapter, chapter of provincials, in Krakow, from July 17 to August 9.



The provincial prior participated in the Provincial Days of the Province of France, in Strasbourg, from July 4 to 6.



In our network

HOMELESS AID FUND

Last March, a fund was created to:

Help finance homeless support organizations in the Capitale-Nationale and Chaudière-Appalaches regions

Support community action through recognized organizations.

WATCH YOUR SCREENS:
Official launch on September 8th

In the photo: Marcel Noël, Board President of Québec Philanthropique, Chantal Duchesneau, donor, Dr. Daniel Boulet and François Pouliot, O.P., creators of the fund, Gabriel Leger, advisor.



Legacy of Pope Francis

A roundtable for reflection and discussion on the legacy of Pope Francis and the initiatives opened by his pontificate brought together four theologians invited by the Christian Cultural Center of Montreal on September 25th: Gilles Routhier, Catherine Foisy, Solange Lefebvre and Fr. Darren Dias. The panel was moderated by Mrs. Marilyse Lapierre.



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>

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

communications@dominicains.ca

Necrology

The province was saddened by the death of brothers Calixto, which occurred on August 5, and brother Hugues Dumais, on the 22nd of the same month. Brother Calixto's body was repatriated to Colombia where his funeral was held. A celebration also took place at the Santa Teresa de Avila mission on August 18. Brother Hugues' funeral was held on August 30 at the Saint-Albert-le-Grand convent church. The burial took place on September 2 at our cemetery in Saint-Hyacinthe. Both were members of the Saint-Albert-le-Grand convent.

Sister Aline Beauregard, Roman congregation of Saint Dominic, passed away on July 6, 2025, at the age of 95.



Mr. Deogratias NDIBWAMI, who passed away on July 28 at the Kigali Hospital Center. He was the father of our friar Raphaël, to whom we extend our heartfelt condolences.

A strengthened presence

Canada's Pacific Coast, has now become a Dominican hub with the Dominican family well-represented evident in the numerous Dominican events where Saint Dominic's family continues to touch hearts and souls.

In early May, the Provincial Council arrived on the west coast, meeting in Vancouver for the first time. In early-August a discernment visit was made by the promoter of vocations for Toronto, Br. Matthieu Vezina with his two Toronto enquirers. Fr. Dieudonne Bigirimana joined the priory of Saint Mary in August to prepare for the pre-novitiate retreat and his duties as novice master.

August 27, immediately before Vespers, the Parish and Priory of Saint Mary welcomed the presence of the Provincial, fr. Yves Beriault, for the admission of the Postulants to the Novitiate received by the Novice Master, fr. Dieudonne: Br. Angelo (Andrew Antes) and Br. Jacob (Andrew Heakes). Fr. David ended his ministry in Rome one week early to be present at the investiture of the novices.

In mid-September the OP enquirer Christopher Ruest, from Saskatoon, visited the community. That was his second visit, sure sign of interest.

At the September chapter, the Priory of Saint Mary officially welcomed two additions to the community of friars: Fr. Dieudonne Bigirimana and Fr. Pierre Leblond. The priory now comprises eight brothers and two novices.

Thursday evening, October 2, the Sisters of Saint Cecilia consecrated their beautiful chapel--as proposed by the former Archbishop Michael Miller--to Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati. Present were the Nashville Sisters, Sister Mary Martha, Sister Mary Bethany, Sister Rose Catherine, and Sister Delia Grace, and the Prioress General, Mother Anna Grace along with Archbishop Richard Smith, and priests and guests from the archdiocese. On the 1st Friday, October 3rd, Father David Bellusci who regularly celebrates Mass for the Sisters of St. Cecilia offer Mass in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in their newly consecrated chapel.

On Saturday morning, October 4, feast of our father, Saint Francis, the Dominican nuns in Squamish, celebrated the 25th anniversary of their presence in Vancouver/Lower Mainland. The Dominican family was present with the Friars and novices of the Priory of Saint Mary, the Sisters of St. Cecilia, the Lay Dominicans, as well as Father Timothy Radcliffe who preached the



homily, and our Friars Raymond Latour and Daniel Cadrin who arrived from Montreal for the celebration. A delicious lunch was served with red and white wines. Soaps produced at the monastery were placed at each table setting. A raffle followed of monastic crafts. Sister Clare Rolf, the Sub-prioress, kept the flow of the afternoon moving smoothly. The Prioress of the monastery who sponsored the Queen of Peace Foundation, Sr Mary Thomas of the Blessed Sacrament Monastery in Farmington Hill, Michigan, spoke of the origins of an English-speaking Dominican monastery in Canada proposed by the Master of the Order at the time, Timothy Radcliffe. Sister Mary Bernadette (Browne) from Corpus Christi Monastery in Menlo Park, California, wearing the Dominican habit with the nun's wimple, related her experiences of the foundation, first at Rosemary Heights in Surrey, and shortly after in Fort Langley, before the nuns moved to Squamish at their present location.

October 6 the Friars at the Priory of Saint Mary came together for Vespers followed by a fraternal dinner in

honour of Our Lady of the Rosary. In mid-October, Father Jose Thomas returned from his travels to India; a much-needed break from his numerous ministries. And Fr. Gilles, the prior of Saint Mary, accompanied a pilgrimage to the Roman Catholic shrines in the Province of Quebec. Fr. Gabriel is scheduled for surgery at the end of October and one month of convalescence in November.

Dominican Vocation Promotion (Vancouver/Western Canada):

Fr. David Bellusci, OP, visited Calgary and Saskatoon to give talks to young adults on Dominican life. Fr. David was also the guest speaker at a conference held by the Vocation Directors of Canada in Calgary. His upcoming Dominican vocation talks are scheduled for Regina, Saskatchewan, and St. Boniface/Winnipeg/Brandon, Manitoba. Next on the Dominican promotion agenda is discernment day at the end of November to be held at the Priory of Saint Mary with enquirers coming from Vancouver and Calgary.



Squamish (Queen of Peace Monastery)

So many blessings !



It was a very busy and joyous summer for our community, which we will try to recount briefly.

On the Feast of the Transfiguration, August 6, Sr. Elizabeth Marie of the Transfiguration made her solemn profession of vows. On the Assumption of Mary, August 15, Sr. Marie Étienne of the Most Holy Name of Jesus also made her solemn profession. Both ceremonies were moving and beautiful witnesses to God's mercy in the lives of our sisters and our monastery.

At the end of August, our prioress Sr. Marie Bénédicte and our community's delegate Sr. Marie Thomas flew to Springfield, Illinois for the Intermediate Assembly of our North American Association of Dominican Monasteries. With seven monasteries from Canada and the United States present, it was a wonderful experience of mutual encouragement and support. Three highlights were a visit from our Master, Br. Gerard Timoner OP; a talk by Br. Thomas Joseph White OP of the Angelicum (and the Hillbilly Thomists); and a talk by Br. Anthony Giambrone OP of the École Biblique.

Meanwhile, the postulants from the friars' novitiate in Vancouver made their pre-vestition retreat at our monastery. We always pray for our brothers, but it was

particularly special to see and hold them in prayer during this important step in their Dominican journey.

As many of you know, this year we are commemorating the 25th anniversary of our monastery. On September 6, we celebrated by welcoming our close friends and benefactors from across the Archdiocese of Vancouver for a day of festivities. After a beautiful Mass, we shared a luncheon al fresco with our guests while listening to stories and speeches tracing the history of our foundation.

On October 4, the feast of St. Francis, we welcomed our Dominican family for a more intimate day of celebration, with Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe OP as the guest of honour. In addition to our provincial Br. Yves Bériault and members of various local branches of the Order, we were also blessed by the presence of sisters from other Dominican monasteries closely connected with our foundation: Sr. Julie of Montréal, Sr. Maria Christine and Sr. Mary Bernadette of Menlo Park, CA, and Sr. Mary Thomas of Farmington Hills, MI.

This Dominican joy continued on October 7 as Kristy from Calgary entered our community to begin her postulancy.



Later in the month, Br. Timothy returned for a few days after preaching a retreat in Fiji, and offered a conference for us before Vespers each afternoon.

Last but not least, at the end of October we were happy to welcome Br. Francesco Garcia Fernandes OP, the Promoter of the Nuns. This was his first visit to our community.

Gazing ahead in the calendar, we are looking forwards to the entrance of Genevieve as a postulant on November 11, and a community triduum of recollection just prior to the beginning of Advent.

We hope you have a joyous and peaceful Advent, and continue to hold you in prayer.

God bless,

Your sisters of Queen of Peace Monastery



Chronicle of the Toronto Convent

Fr. Hervé Tremblay

Buzz of activities in Toronto



Lots of activity at the Toronto convent at the start of the school year.

- Br. Gustave Ineza officially began his term as pastor of the Francophone parish of Sacré-Cœur on September 1st and has moved there. His official installation at the parish took place on October 26th by Bishop Robert Kasun, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto in charge of Zone 1 (downtown).
- As a result, the previous pastor, Br. Hervé Tremblay, returned to Aquinas House and took Br. Gustave's room. He continues to teach at St. Peter's Major Seminary in London, among other things.
- After much discernment, it was deemed preferable that Br. Minlib Dahl was assigned to his home province, the Southern Province of the United States. His provincial assigned him to Atlanta, where he left in early October.
- As a result, DIT (Dominican Institute of Toronto) is putting itself on hold for a while, waiting to continue its restructuring.
- Br. Thong led a pilgrimage in late June and early July in the footsteps of Saint Dominic and to Rome with a group of about forty people to mark the Jubilee. He continues his ministry in hospitals and accompanies a Vietnamese community on Sundays.
- Br. Prakash ended his employment at the Archdiocese of Toronto's Office of Interreligious Dialogue to work at the Mary Knoll Center of the Sisters of Loreto, involved in teaching and social development. The building of the "Mary Ward Center" was sold to St-Michael's University-College, but the Sisters of Loreto continue to use it. Br. Prakash works there with a team of four people involved in various issues: interreligious dialogue, human trafficking, migration, climate change,

youth ministry, empowering women and children. Br. Prakash also collaborates with his Dominican promoter counterparts in the United States. He is also in contact with the promoter in Geneva, at the international level, as well as with the Canadian Religious Conference and Justice and Peace promoters from other religious communities. He will raise awareness among the brothers about the situation in Cameroon during the Dominican Peace Month 2025 (December), which focuses on a different country each year. Several initiatives and commemorations take place throughout the year. Brother Prakash would like to send the brothers a calendar of these events. He has also been appointed Provincial Promoter for Justice and Peace for the Canadian Province.

- Br. Alexandre Odesho is doing much better and regularly attends community recreations and chapters.
- Br. Darren Dias continues to be very busy as President of TST (Toronto Schools of Theology) and at various conferences and symposia.

The summer was relaxing.

- Br. Darren has made two trips to Rome and elsewhere in Europe.
- Br. Minlib also stayed in various convents in Europe.
- Br. Hervé spent the month of July in Trinidad, where he preached the annual retreat to the

Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, who have a house here in Toronto. The rest of the time was spent exploring the country and its birds.

- Br. Mathieu spent two weeks in Vancouver with two potential candidates for Dominican life. Of course, they went to visit our sisters in Squamish.

Some events to highlight:

- On September 6, Br. Prakash represented the Dominicans of Toronto at the Forum for Consecrated Life at St. Bonaventure Parish in Toronto, chaired by Bishop Yvan Camilleri.
- The Caribbean parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel, where our Dominican sisters from Trinidad work, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. They arrived there only a few years after the parish was founded. A gala was held on September 20. Br. Mathieu represented the community's prior, who was unable to attend. Then a solemn mass was held on Sunday, October 12, followed by an excellent meal with Caribbean music where our Dominican sisters demonstrated their expertise. The mass was to be presided over by Cardinal Francis Leo, but his father died the day before, and the Cardinal had to urgently travel to Montreal. Br. Hervé and Mathieu attended.
- Br. Hervé Tremblay gave the annual Mahoney Library Lecture on October 15th at St-Peter Seminary in London. The theme was: Being an Intelligent Believer: A Danger or A Calling? A Reflection through the Lenses of Biblical Exegesis.



Chronicle of Saint-Jean-Baptiste Convent

Fr. Guy Rivard

Happy arrival !

Hello to all members of the Dominican family, from the brothers in Ottawa.

Very good news since the last issue of Réseau: Fr. Jean-Paul Tagheu has arrived! It is a joy to have him among us. It brings down the median age of the brothers! I hope that by the time you read these lines, he will have officially become the pastor of Saint-Jean-Baptiste parish.

In terms of life in the convent, well, the honeymoon is over. I have already shared with you what the church has become. Nothing has been done since, so we still gather in the refectory for weekend celebrations, and no one knows for how long. We are told that we will be able to return to the church temporarily once a new floor has been installed. Then there is the time needed to receive design proposals for the multipurpose room it will become, to select one, and to hire the company that will execute the chosen design. After that, it will be

back to the refectory for weeks, perhaps months, while the transformation of the church is completed.

This is where we stand. We will see, over time, to what extent we can coexist with the school under these new circumstances. I must say that for the moment, things are going not so bad. There are about a hundred students in total, spread throughout the building from Monday to Friday, but they are invisible and inaudible.

As for the rest, everyone is fine, with the expected health issues, but we must live with them. Throughout the summer, with the constant absence of one or the other, it was really the little leftover, but we manage to keep the choir going and to share pleasant and happy moments together. In short, life is beautiful, after all!

Looking forward to getting back to you in the next issue of Réseau!



Saint Albert the Great, Montreal

Instead of a chronicle, (R. Latour)

Vacations and Vacancies

In summer, it is normal for the convent to empty. Some brothers are away for stays of varying lengths while others remain, and then leave in turn for a second wave. One or another will not move. This was the case again this year, but at the end of the vacation, our community found itself with vacant spots. Our brothers Calixto and Hugues passed away during the month of August. Their sudden departure was a shock to all. Brother Calixto, who had made such great efforts to learn French and who displayed a beautiful smile while speaking the language of Molière, ready to take on the challenges of his pastoral duties at the church of “Santa Teresa,” gone? Barely two weeks later, again this disbelief: Brother Hugues, always so present, with the weather report at breakfast, considerations on a multitude of subjects... And his attendance at all the services... this figure of everyday life is no more?

It was also necessary to mourn another loss, a planned one this time, with the comfort that it was only a goodbye: our brother Jean-Louis had been preparing for a few months for his move to the Maison Basile-Moreau, better suited to his situation. The community was losing one of its pillars.

No one is irreplaceable, they say. But there are presences that continue to dwell within us for a long time, that we miss because of their familiarity, because of the gentle habit of knowing they are there, at such a time, in such a place. We are still surprised not to find them anymore, an absence that makes us strongly feel the place they held. A gap. The brothers of a community take up residence in our hearts. It is not always, or even rarely, vivacious friendship, but we form a small family. A grieving family.

Raymond Latour, o.p.



(The regular chronicle of the convent will be back in the next issue. A big thank you to Brother Jean-Louis Larochelle, who was the regular contributor for several years. Elsewhere in RÉSEAU, you will find news concerning the brothers of Saint-Albert).

House of the Most Holy Rosary

Fr. Jean-Jacques Robillard

Sun like in Mexico, with autumn colors

The trees have begun to dress themselves in different colors, signaling the end of summer and the approaching winter. It's best to make the most of this transitional season! And, on some days, it seems that the sun pays little attention to the calendar as it is always there, highlighting the magnificent autumn colors.

Since the last Network, life has gone on with its ups and downs. During this period, two special events came to disrupt and delight our daily lives. Two meals under a tent that had been set up for each occasion.

The first brought us together around a 'méchoui,' where we shared a delicious roast 'suckling pig' cooked on the grill. The second transported us under the sky of Mexico, allowing us to savor various Mexican dishes. In both cases, the sun was shining, accompanied by a gentle breeze, making the temperature very pleasant. For us, it was a wonderful opportunity to bond with the employees as well as with the priests working in the parishes of Saint-Hyacinthe.

Last October 1st, we, as we do every month, celebrated the birthdays. But the authorities of the Seminary also wanted to specially acknowledge the service that your humble chronicler has provided to the Seminary's residents' community since July 2015.

This means that since last September 1st, I have officially retired after serving as the seminary's procurator for ten years. However, the aftermath of COVID – slower progress – and the DMH have led me to submit my resignation to Bishop Christian Rodembourg of Saint-Hyacinthe. That sums up the health status of the chronicler.



Chronicle of the Quebec Convent

Fr. Jacques Marcotte

Tested and at Work!

One can say that, in many ways, we are in transition in Quebec. First, the unexpected departure of Brother Martin Lavoie, our prior, to another priory in Montreal, left us feeling orphaned throughout the summer. This period coincided with the extended absences of several brothers. We therefore had to slow down and patiently await what comes next. That next step arrived with the feast of Saint Augustine at the end of August. And once again, the galley is underway!

The transition is also clearly marked by the progress of our project to return to St. Dominic's Church. We knew that the solution was complex, and that there are many adjustments to be made to various administrative, pastoral, and community plans. Brothers François and Michel are more directly involved in the negotiation process under the ultimate leadership of Cardinal Lacroix and our provincial. An agreement is about to take its final form. In the meantime, the pace of our regular participation in

daily and Sunday liturgies at St. Dominic's Church continues at full speed. Several brothers contribute to this.

The feast of Saint Dominic took on a grand scale this year at the iconic sites of Grande-Allée. Many people attended, including members of the Dominican Family, the parish, and others. The solemn Mass was celebrated by Fr. Michel. The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary was celebrated in a double manner this year. First, as a preparation, on Saturday, October 4, the group La Puissance du Rosaire led a Marian morning at St. Dominic Church. This activity was also open to parishioners.

And it was on Tuesday evening, October 7, that the Festival event was most fully celebrated this year, attended in large numbers by members of the Dominican family and the parishioners of St. Dominic and beyond. We first celebrated the solemn Vespers at 5:30 PM in a choir of clergy overflowing with people. Then came the shared dinner in the



Beautiful participation in the Rosary morning.



On the Île d'Orléans, a Marian day at the Foyer de Charité, led by Brother Jacques Marcotte and Germain Grenom, of the Saints-Apôtres.

church basement. A lecture was then given by Fr. Lamphone on the theme of Marian apparitions and the prayer of the Rosary. The recitation of the Rosary, led by our Sisters, the Dominican Missionary Adorers, took place while the Sacrament of Penance was being offered by our brother priests.

Finally, the Eucharist, presided over by the prior, concluded the evening with, at the end, a torchlight procession, which took place inside the church due to the rain. One had to see and hear that long crowd, strolling and singing, under the arcades all around the church, like a trail of light in the night! You may remember the statue of the Virgin, which was once visible from the large cloister of the convent on Grande Allée, in that enclosed space formed by the convent, the presbytery, the church, and the sacristy. Mary was there, right in the middle, clearly visible, like a protective presence. We took this statue with us when we moved to Ste-Foy in 2008. She still watches over us and looks after us from the garden behind our house. From the dining room, we can see her and speak to her. Neighbors often stop to greet her and pray.

However, recently a man from the neighborhood pointed out to us that our Virgin had aged, that the weather and the hardships of transportation had left harsh marks on the monument. Mr. Jean-Marie Laberge, aged 92, a religious man and great devotee of Our Lady, said he felt a calling to take care of our statue. He offered to restore its beauty. Throughout the month of September, Mr. Laberge, a professional artist, devoted himself to rejuvenating Our Lady, making her smile, welcoming, beautiful, and graceful. His wife, Marguerite, and Francine, our cook, became co-conspirators in the project. Everyone wanted to make his task easier. The work was completed just in time for the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. I hope one day you will come to see her, and also pray to Our Lady. The old gentleman told me how proud and happy he was to have been able to pay such tribute and testimony to the Virgin Mary by giving her back to us gentle and welcoming, welcoming, young, all beautiful, like a young mother happy to carry life, to give Life, this Life which is Christ, her son and the Son of God, our Brother, our Lord and Savior. Is he not our Joy and our Hope, our Love and our Peace?



A symbolic monument was inaugurated at Saint-Dominique Church during an interfaith meeting on Sunday, October 19th.



Saint Thomas Aquinas Convent (Bujumbura)

New Vicar, new friars, new Institute !

At the **Source du Nil Hotel** in Bujumbura, on June 13, the official launch of IDEE (Institute for Development and Economic Ethics) took place under the high patronage of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Transport and Tourism. The launch was chaired by Fr. Symphorien NTIBAGIRIRWA, legal representative of IDEE-Burundi. The ministry was represented by the assistant to the minister, Gérard NIYOKINDI.

Various presentations were on the agenda. This included the one by Professor Jean Marie KATUBADI, who outlined the IDEE project within the framework of fundamental ethics. For his part, Fr. Liboire KAGABO's presentation focused on business ethics, while Fr. Symphorien presented the history of the project and its prospects. Present at this launch ceremony were state institutions, private companies, banks and insurance companies, representatives from academia and the ecclesiastical world, civil society, as well as public and private media.

Several laypeople have enrolled in the postulancy of the fraternity. Thus, this year, last July, 13 laypeople began their two-year novitiate during a celebration presided over by the Prior of the Convent, Fr. Symphorien NTIBAGIRIRWA. Wishing a good journey to these Dominican laypeople! Fr. Symphorien Ntibagirirwa has been appointed a member of the communication commission of the Confederation of Major Superiors' Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (COSMAM). The commission includes three members, namely Anand Talluli from Tunisia and Vaclav Klement from South Africa.

The student brothers of the Convent held their annual retreat at the Monastery of the Dominican Nuns in Rweza, a few days before the feast of Saint Dominic and the renewal of their vows. The retreat was led by Fr. Guy Rivard. The Dominican family of Burundi (the brothers, the Sisters, and the laity) celebrated the founder of the Order's feast on August 8 at the Monastery.



*Fr. Symphorien, OP
presenting the mission
of IDEE*



*Fr. Liboire, OP
during his speech*



After the launch of IDEE.

Fr. Raphaël MANIKIZA UWINEZA, having completed his second term as provincial vicar of Rwanda-Burundi, an elective assembly was held on Zoom to proceed with the election of the new vicarial council. The capitulars chose Fr. Liboire KAKABO as the new vicar on August 4. The elections were facilitated by Fr. Guy Rivard. We wish our friar Liboire KAKABO a fruitful service to the brothers of the Provincial Vicariate. During this assembly, Fr. Ezéchiél RIVUZIMANA was elected counselor.

On September 3, after the holidays for the vicariate's student brothers, the prior opened the 2025-2026 formation year. On this same occasion, it was time to bid farewell to friars Pévis NJEMUBUMWE, who had just completed his internship in Bujumbura, and Thierry KWIZERA, who was finishing his in Nyagatare. They went on to continue their theological studies in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

With the aim of caring for our "common home" and establishing a harmonious relationship with the environment, as well as meeting economic needs, the Dominicans of Burundi initiated rice cultivation in Rukaramu, near Bujumbura Airport. On September 2, the student friars as well as the trainee brothers visited the field ready for harvest. They made this visit as part of learning about Dominican projects in Burundi. The group was guided by the Prior of the Convent, Fr. Symphorien NTIBAGIRIRWA, OP, as well as the Father Master, Brother Ézéchiél RIVUZIMANA.

On September 13, 2025, the Rweza contemplative Sisters opened the jubilee year of their fiftieth

anniversary of foundation in Rweza, Ngozi. Sister Astérie made her first profession on the opening Mass of the jubilee year.

Burundi has adopted a vision! "Vision Burundi 2040," aiming to be an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. It was in this context that Fr. Symphorien was invited by the Anglican Service for Community Development (September 24-26, 2025) in Burundi. He then conducted a three-day workshop seminar to help them align their projects within this vision. Fr. Symphorien was accompanied by Fr. Joseph HABARUREMA, who is doing a diaconal internship in Bujumbura. Fr. Symphorien, also preached a retreat for the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in MUYAGA, in the diocese of Ruyigi.

The electrical network in Burundi is currently being rehabilitated and expanded, which disrupts the electricity supply to its customers, including the Saint-Thomas- Aquinas Convent in Bujumbura. Repeated outages hinder the convent's activities. To address this problem, the convent had to install a hybrid backup system.

Since October 1st, the 7 student brothers of the Saint-Thomas-Aquinas Convent have started classes at the Saint-Curé-d'Ars Major Seminary in Bujumbura. Three of them are in the 3rd year of Philosophy, two in the 2nd year, and two in the 1st year. Fr. Louis NTIBAKUNZE has begun his apostolic internship in Bujumbura. Fr. Joseph HABARUREMA, on the other hand, has started his diaconal internship.



Rice harvest



Solar Panel Batteries

Chronicle of the mission in Japan

Fr. Kôta Kanno

Some news... made in Japan.

For the column in this October issue, I must tell you that I feel exceptionally spoiled by three (!) contributors who agreed to report on the new developments within our mission.

First, Brother Jerzy WIDOMSKI, vicar of our convent parish in Shibuya, gives us the news from the community.

The following are two brothers who participated in significant events with our Dominican brothers from the Japanese Vicariate of the Province of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary: a missionary Dominican province that is also very active in Southeast Asia and whose headquarters is in Hong Kong. This will be an opportunity to highlight the multiple bonds of communion between the brothers of the various Dominican entities in Japan. Brother Ryo SATO recounts his trip to Matsuyama, a city on the island of Shikoku in the south-central part of the archipelago, where the brothers of the Province of the Holy Rosary mainly work. Among other activities, he participated in the priestly ordination of Brother Joseph-Gabriel HYODO Shunsuke, a native of Matsuyama.

Brother Michel GIARD briefly recounts the Dominican (and eventful!) history of the parish of Hakozaki in Fukuoka, a city on the island of Kyushu in

the southwest of the archipelago, where the brothers of the Vicariate of the Holy Rosary are responsible for pastoral care. Brother Michel served as pastor there for 17 years before the Japanese Vicariate of the Canadian Province handed over the responsibility to the brothers of the Holy Rosary. A new church will be built there by the summer of 2026, and Brother Michel participated in the 'first groundbreaking' ceremony. These are three brothers who contributed, with great brilliance, to this chronicle. Many thanks to them!

Since this chronicle often discusses the Province of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, I will conclude by noting that the brothers of this Province, gathered for the provincial chapter in Avila (Spain) last August, elected the provincial vicar of Japan, Brother Mariano GONZALEZ MARTIN, as provincial prior. After studying canon law in Spain and the United States, he worked for several years in South Korea, and then in Japan since 2013. He contributed to the development of various cooperation projects with the Vicariate of Canada, including taking charge of the parish of Hakozaki. A tireless man for the mission, who, I am certain, will give great apostolic momentum to the brothers of his Province.



Short News from Shibuya Parish in Japan

Jerzy Widomski

Since October 1 of last year, our parish in Shibuya has had a new pastor, Friar Hisao Miyamoto, a long-time university lecturer. He is assisted by two vicars: Fr. Ryo Sato and Fr. Jerzy Widomski.

During this year, our pastor has led retreats in preparation for Christmas and Easter, as well as monthly lectures on the Holy Scriptures. Fr. Ryo cared for the youngest members of our parish and celebrated the daily morning Mass. Our Dominican Sister Yonemitsu prepared the children for their First Holy Communion. We have also been greatly supported by Fr. Emilio Martinez from the Holy Rosary Province (Spain), who lives with us and is responsible for weddings and the Dominican Laity.

Fr. Jerzy oversaw funerals and prepared adults to receive the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

The eldest member of our community, Father Gaston Petit, who turned 95 this year, held an exhibition of his artwork in the church hall at the end of October and is planning another one this year.

The new pastor's wish is that other Fathers would also take part in the care of the parish, not only those who live permanently in the priory in Shibuya. When preparing the Sunday Mass schedule, we try to invite them as well, so they may have the opportunity to share the Word of God.

Every year, September 15 is a day of gratitude for the elderly.

We are sending a few photos from the Holy Mass on Sunday, September 14, during which some of them received the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. After the Mass, there was a small gathering that included an artistic program for them.

Japanese society is aging, and this can also be seen in the Church. However, so as not to fall into pessimism that there is no longer any hope for us, I am also sharing a photo of younger people taken after the Holy Mass of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, followed by their meeting.



First ordination in 18 years at the Vicariate of the Rosary (Japan)

Fr. Antonio-Ryo Sato

On Saturday, June 28, 2025, the eve of the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, I took an early morning flight from Haneda Airport to make a round trip from Tokyo to Matsuyama, which is the largest city on the island of Shikoku where our brothers from the Province of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary are present. That day, at the parish church of Matsuyama, the priestly ordination of Friar Joseph-Gabriel Shunsuke Hyôdô took place. First ordination in 18 years for the Vicariate of the Rosary in Japan!

The new ordained was born in 1979 in Matsuyama itself. After working for nine years following his university studies, he joined the Dominicans in 2016. He was then sent to the Philippines for his postulancy in Manila. The following year, he undertook his novitiate at the Hong Kong convent, leading to his first profession on August 8, 2018. Holding a bachelor's degree in Christian studies from the University of Saint Joseph in Macau, he made his solemn profession at the Saint Dominic Convent in the same city. Having become a deacon in Matsuyama, he carried out his pastoral internship at the Hakozaki parish, served by the Friars Preachers, in the Diocese of Fukuoka. Friar Shunsuke is now continuing his formation at Nanzan University in Nagoya, run by the Society of the Divine Word, to obtain the certificate qualifying him to teach at the secondary level.

The presbyterate was conferred upon him by Monsignor Joseph Maria Abella Battle, C.M.F., who is the bishop of Fukuoka. Friar Mariano González Martin, as the superior of the Vicariate, welcomed people at this ordination. The newly ordained was trained alongside students from various backgrounds in Asia. The concelebrating priests were multinational: South Korea, Myanmar, the Philippines, etc. There were also several Japanese diocesan priests who accompanied him throughout his journey.

From the province of Canada, Friar Paul Shôichi Ihara participated with me in this celebration; he had come from Sakaide, another city on the same island of Shikoku, where he works as a doctor in a hospital run

by the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of Saint Dominic, many of whom live near the brothers' convent in Matsuyama.

After the celebration, we traveled by bus to Aikô-Gakuen, a high school run by the friars of the Province of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. There, we shared a festive meal around friar Shunsuke, his parents, with music and singing by fellow friars or young laypeople.

On this occasion, members of the Dominican lay fraternity attached to the parish of Hakozaki kindly offered to host me at their home to lead a retreat. I also had the joy of being at the same table as Mgr. Abella, whom I was meeting for the first time. He, for his part, invited me to the inauguration of the new church in Hakozaki, scheduled for October 2026. The new priest promised me that one day he would come to our parish in Shibuya to celebrate his first Mass in Tokyo. The next morning, in this Shibuya church, presiding over the Sunday Mass for the solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, I invited the congregation to pray for the new priest who was celebrating his first Mass at the same time in the parish of Matsuyama.



The wheat grain that fell into the earth or the fruitful adventures of our Dominican parish in Fukuoka

Fr. Michel Giard

In these times of a marked decline in regular participation of the faithful in our ecclesial assemblies, even in a country of young Christianity like Japan, it is rather unusual to be invited to the blessing of the groundbreaking ceremony (in Japanese: KIKÔ`SHIKI) of a new church. Yet this is precisely what I witnessed on Monday, July 7, in Fukuoka, the main city of the Kyushu island in the southwest of the archipelago, where the brothers of the Japanese Vicariate of the Province of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary have been responsible for the pastoral care of the Hakozaki parish since the Canadian Vicariate officially transferred the mission and establishment to them in 2018.

In the photo, one can see the appearance of the future building, rather imposing, which will include: the church itself on the second floor, offices and parish rooms on the first floor, the brothers' convent on the second floor at the back, all surrounded by land maximizing parking spaces, always essential in a peripheral urban area.

In this photo, we see the Bishop of the Diocese of Fukuoka, Bishop Josep Maria ABELLA, who presided over the blessing, accompanied by the Provincial Vicar of Japan of the Province of the Holy Rosary, Friar Mariano GONZALEZ MARTIN.

Photos shows the vacant lot and the tent where the rite took place, as well as all the participants, parishioners who were able to attend on the occasion.

Why a new church?

How did we get here? For me, this event represents only the latest of the fruitful adventures or happy twists that have marked the history of this small Dominican parish since it was founded by our Canadian missionary friars in 1957. Once is not customary, so allow me, starting from the beginning, to recall here some of these significant turning points, if only to savor the fact that nothing can ever be taken for granted... like a grain of wheat fallen into the earth. The historical references are taken from the Commemorative Booklet published on the 50th anniversary of the parish's founding in 2007.

The unexpected creation of the parish.

It was in 1951 that the Dominicans of the Canadian province settled in Fukuoka, a bustling port city and an important administrative and cultural center in Japan. A house was then rented in Shiobara, in the Minami (southern) district, to establish a convent whose very Dominican goal was to provide courses in medieval philosophy at the Faculty of Letters of Kyushu University. The first assigned friar was Fr. Philippe DESLAURIERS. For about four years, in addition to his courses at Kyushu University, Fr. DESLAURIERS supported the activities of the Catholic Students' Association and the Alumni Association, which were very active at the time in Fukuoka, and had a significant influence.



In 1953, following this initial successful integration into the community, the Dominicans acquired the current church site in Hamamatsu-cho in the Higashi ward, near Kyushu University. In 1955, a convent and a building intended to serve as a gathering place for students, and a conference hall were constructed there, which was named Newman House, in honor of Cardinal Newman. This Newman House is the predecessor of our Hakozaiki church. That is why the exterior of the 1955 building will resemble a school more than a church, if one disregards the cross and the statue added later.

Alas, Father DESLAURIERS suffered a stroke shortly after the completion of Newman House and left Fukuoka. It was Fr. Louis-Marie BELIVEAU and Yoshitoku WATANABE who then came to Fukuoka to replace him. Fr. BELIVEAU was to teach courses at Kyushu University, while Fr. WATANABE was responsible for ministry to the students.



Fr. BELIVEAU regarded his medieval philosophy courses at Kyushu University as his apostolic mission and devoted himself to them wholeheartedly. However, at the urgent request of the Catholic Student Association, which brought together students from the city's universities (Kyushu University, Fukuoka University, Fukuoka Women's University, Seinan University, etc.), he eventually inherited the other mission initiated by Fr. DESLAURIERS, that of evangelizing the students.

Thus, Fr. BELIVEAU, without having planned it initially, began leading retreats and study groups, seminars, and conferences. A series of lectures he gave at the Faculty of Letters at Kyushu University in Roppon-matsu was very successful. And it was in this way that members of the "student clubs" began to meet

weekly at Newman House to socialize and conduct their research. And it was thus that Newman House eventually gained influence beyond the circle of students and became an open and welcoming gathering place. This did not fail to reach the ears of the bishop of the Fukuoka diocese, Bishop Seneimon FUKAHORI, who then asked Fr. BELIVEAU to consider converting Newman House into a parish church and taking on its pastoral care.

It is easy to imagine the turmoil that this request from the bishop must have caused Fr. Beliveau. Already very absorbed by his courses at Kyushu University and by supporting the students, how was he going to be able to take care of a parish as well?

He finally accepted in a missionary spirit, not without first setting his conditions. The parish would have no more than about a hundred parishioners. Its territory would be limited to part of the eastern area of the neighboring Daimyo-machi cathedral parish, the area where the convent and Newman House were located. It was a territory approximately 4 km long and 3 km wide along Hakata Bay, which included the vast grounds of the Hakozaiki Shinto shrine (which gives its name to the district and, consequently, to the church), the Kyushu University campus, the university hospital, as well as a rather lively area mainly composed of shops and student neighborhoods.

These are the events that led to the unexpected creation of the Hakozaiki parish in Fukuoka. The work of converting the Newman House into a church was completed in the fall of 1957. And on November 23, 1957, on a beautiful autumn day, Labor Day in Japan, a grand consecration ceremony was presided over by Bishop Seneimon Fukahori of the Diocese of Fukuoka. The Hakozaiki Church was dedicated to Saint Mary, Queen of the World.

Among the participants (see photo from 1957) were Fr. Bernard-Marie TRAHAN, Vicar General of the Canadian Province in Japan, Father Seiji ITO, pastor of the Daimyo-machi cathedral parish, about twenty other priests and nuns, members of the Catholic Student Association, as well as around 70 adult and child parishioners transferred from the Daimyo-machi church who on that day became the first parishioners of Hakozaiki.

A closure project abandoned twice and the enthusiastic expansion of the parish.

Twenty years pass during which, under the conscientious guidance of Fr. BELIVEAU, the young parish of Hakozaki lives and grows. Along the liturgical cycles, the faithful will gather there and draw nourishment. The Fukuoka Catholic Student Association, which founded the Newman House, will continue to play a leading role there for a good dozen years. Furthermore, the parish will witness the birth and flourishing of several popular Catholic movements of the time, namely the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and the Legion of Mary. Several parishioners will also become members of the Dominican Third Order.



Fr. BELIVEAU, for his part, will continue to regard his courses in medieval philosophy and Latin at Kyushu University as his primary apostolic mission, even though he willingly accepted to teach catechism for the purpose of baptism to those who came to the church. However, according to the conditions established when he accepted the position of parish priest, and to preserve his strength, he will himself very rarely perform adult baptisms, encouraging catechumens to be baptized in their territorial parish. This will unfortunately have the effect of limiting the development prospects of the Hakozaki parish.

Indeed, within the mission of the Canadian Dominicans in Japan around the 1970s, newly established as a Vicariate General, priorities were being reassessed, and given the available personnel, questions arose regarding the prospects of the Hakozaki parish. Serious financial problems were also at stake. Could one reasonably continue to bear the pastoral responsibility of the parish?

Thus, the regional vicar of Japan of the Canadian Province, Fr. Bernard-Marie TRAHAN, came to

Fukuoka in 1970 and summoned the president of the parishioners, Mr. Fusato HIRATA, to announce the Dominicans' intention to close the Hakozaki parish. Acting as the spokesperson for the parishioners, Mr. HIRATA endeavored to make the regional vicar understand that, even though they were few, the faithful were very attached to Fr. BELIVEAU as a spiritual guide, and that they wished to further deepen their faith journey with him, in a young and free-spirited atmosphere. Couldn't they wait a few more years before reaching the fateful conclusion? Couldn't unexpected signs of renewal soon manifest themselves?

Mr. HIRATA succeeded in convincing the authorities. The closure of the Hakozaki parish would therefore be avoided, and the future would remain open-ended. However, starting around 1975, Fr. BELIVEAU suffered from severe lower back pain. He was treated at Kyushu University Hospital, but since there was no way to alleviate his intense pain without surgery, he decided to return to Canada for treatment, which he did on May 7, 1976. Less than a year later, on March 16, 1977, he suddenly died of a heart attack. He was only 59 years old.

Despite the tragic event, the Dominicans kept their word and did not abandon the Hakozaki parish. Even before Fr. BELIVEAU's departure for Canada in the spring of 1976, Fr. Michio MASUDA was appointed as interim pastor, a role he held for about a year and a half. Then, on October 19, 1977, Fr. Robert Thomas RICHARD succeeded him as permanent pastor. He was a confrere of Fr. BELIVEAU and, like him, 59 years old.

In fact, Fr. RICHARD would later admit that he had come to Fukuoka on a mandate from the then Regional Vicar, Fr. Arthur BEAULIEU, and from the Vicariate council, to negotiate the closure of the parish! Within the council, despite a brief reprieve, the question of the future of the Hakozaki parish kept coming up. In addition to its financial problems, this church was still considered, rightly or wrongly, as having no development potential. The distance from the rest of the Dominican community to the friars assigned there was also a factor. At that time, the friars of the Regional Vicariate were mostly concentrated in Tokyo and in the prefectures of Tohoku, in the northeast of the archipelago.

But Fr. RICHARD quickly realized that the descriptions of the situation circulating at the Vicariate council since 1970 did not reflect the reality he saw before him in 1977. Indeed, the situation at Hakozaki Church had changed. Fr. MASUDA, who had been acting as interim, welcomed people freely from outside the Hakozaki parish, particularly those coming from the region east of Najima, which constituted an enclave of the Daimyo-machi cathedral parish. Since he had no teaching responsibilities at Kyushu University, he could devote himself entirely to pastoral work. And he did not adopt the very strict approach to baptism of his predecessor.

In this way, the housewives, who were about to become the driving force of the church under Fr. RICHARD, had begun to settle in one after another. The number of young people had also started to increase again, largely due to students from Kyushu University who had attended the church at the end of Fr. BELIVEAU's term and, having become believers, brought catechumens with them. A genuine atmosphere of renewal prevailed in the church and had now become a solid source of hope for its future for the Dominicans and for Fr. RICHARD.

Financial problems remained. Fr. RICHARD, both a scholar and a man of action, quickly found a decisive solution. The church's land was considerable in size, but a good portion was practically non-essential. After deliberating with the parishioners, a part of it (1,504.46 m²) was sold, which, given the land's location in a commercial area, was more than sufficient to restore the balance of the accounts. Additionally, the aging convent was demolished, and a new building was constructed next to the church. At the same time, several necessary works were carried out inside the church.

Thus, after all these twists and turns, the plan to close Hakozaki Church, considered twice, turned out to be a happy miscalculation.

The timely succession of the friars of the Province of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary and the new future of the parish.

And here we are at the final turning point (yet!) in the history of Hakozaki Parish, which will see the construction of a new church and a new convent.

I will not dwell on the 22 years during which Fr. RICHARD held the position of parish priest from 1977 to 1999, nor on the 17 years that followed from 1999 to

2016 when the position was entrusted to me. But throughout this entire period, there would never again be any discussion of closing the Hakozaki parish. And for good reason: the parish was thriving.

Over the weeks and years, Fr. RICHARD first, and then I, having adopted Fr. MASUDA's open attitude, freely welcomed people who came to the church, preparing them and celebrating their baptism if they expressed the desire. The number of faithful thus increased and consistently remained around 350 to 400 people, which corresponds to a medium-sized parish in Japan. Furthermore, greatly benefiting from the spirit of renewal instilled in the Church by the Second Vatican Council, we ensured that the faithful were involved in various aspects of the organization and mission of the parish. The sense of responsibility and enthusiasm of the faithful never waned. Therefore, it was obviously out of the question to close a church that thus gathered, and still gathers, an open and vibrant Christian community.

However, at the end of 2014, a completely different problem arose for the Canadian Vicariate: with the decrease and redistribution of personnel, we had to consider, quite reluctantly, giving up the pastoral responsibility of the Hakozaki parish! The deficiency was no longer on the parish's side, but ours. Since I was the parish priest at that time, and it had been decided that I would be assigned to our house in Shinjuku, Tokyo, the Vicariate council, of which I was a member, discussed taking steps with the bishop of Fukuoka to transfer the responsibility of the parish to the Diocese and to negotiate the legal transfer of the establishment, which was the property of the Dominican Order. But there was also an alternative solution to our staffing problem: an appeal to the friars of the other Dominican entity active in Japan, the Vicariate of the Province of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary.

I had met somewhat earlier the regional vicar of the Vicariate, Fr. Mariano GONZALEZ MARTIN. He had shared with me their situation and their desire to find new places of establishment in Japan outside the island of Shikoku, in the central-southern part of the archipelago, where a large part of their parish commitments is concentrated, as well as in education with the management of a nationally renowned private school. It should also be mentioned that the Province of the Holy Rosary, active in many Southeast Asian countries where other Vicariates are established, has many young friars. I thought to myself, wasn't the

parish of Hakozaiki in Fukuoka, the closest and most important city in Japan oriented toward Asia, perfectly suited for a new establishment of our brothers?
 $1 + 1 = 2$

Everything is never so simple, but why not explore the possibilities? This is how I took the initiative for a first meeting (incognito!) with Fr. Mariano on February 24, 2015, at the Dominican convent in Matsuyama, on the island of Shikoku, to share with him the nascent project. Brother Mariano's reaction was immediate and extremely positive. $2 + 2 = 4$. The project opened considerable prospects for the Vicariate of the Holy Rosary. In addition to ministry at the parish and in the Diocese of Fukuoka, the proximity to several major universities would allow the convent adjacent to the church to eventually welcome teaching brothers and/or brothers in their initial formation.

Fr. Mariano, with his sharp and pragmatic mind, therefore suggested that we immediately outline the concrete steps for carrying out the project. This involved, on the part of the Vicariate of our Canadian Province, the transfer of pastoral responsibility and the establishment of the Hakozaiki parish to the Vicariate of the Province of the Holy Rosary, within a tight schedule. Said and done, "almost" immediately done!

Here, as a conclusion, and in chronological order, is a list of these final steps that proved decisive for the subsequent developments of this grain of wheat that fell to the ground and has continued to bear fruit:

1) The approval in principle of the said transfer project by the councils and chapters of our respective Dominican entities, which was completed relatively easily in the summer of 2015.

2) The negotiation, September-October 2015, of a 'Pastoral Collaboration Contract between the Diocese of Fukuoka and the Dominican Order in Japan.' The contract would formally renew in writing the verbal agreement that had existed since 1957, which officially recognized the status of 'Parochia Religiosa in Perpetuum' (cf. Canon § 520) of the Hakozaiki parish. The contract would specify, among other things, that the Dominican Order, owner of the establishment, will henceforth be represented in Fukuoka (and this is new) by either of the Vicariates of Canada and of Saint-Rosaire, who will take turns, according to custom, presenting candidates to the bishop for the parish priest's post. This last clause was intended to ensure that our two entities had every opportunity to interact, both in the short term, at the time of the transfer of responsibilities, and in the long term... Who knows what the future holds?!

3) The 'Pastoral Collaboration Contract between the Diocese of Fukuoka and the Order of Dominicans in Japan' was ratified and signed on Friday, December 4, 2015, by Bishop Dominiko MIYAHARA Rioji of Fukuoka, Brother Jean MIYAMOTO Hisao, Provincial Vicar of the Canadian Province, and Brother Mariano GONZALEZ MARTIN, Provincial Vicar of the Province of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary.

4) On Monday, December 4, 2017, after an agreed two-year transition period, a 'Legal Agreement' was signed by the religious corporations of our two entities for the transfer of the Hakozaiki parish establishment, previously owned by our Vicariate, to the Vicariate of the Province of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, at a cost of 0 Yen.



Missionary Adorers

Sister Yvette Blouin

Journal of activities

Hello to all of you in the Dominican Family. Here is some information regarding the experiences of your sisters in Beauport. The summer months allowed each of them to enjoy 15 days of vacation and to exchange services. With you, we shared days of intense heat, keeping in mind a verse from the Canticle of the Creatures: "And you frost and cold, bless the Lord!" And since time moves on without our being able to stop it, we have entered with you fully into the splendor and generosity of autumn, and we give glory to God for it. In the face of such abundance, we do not forget to intercede for countries at war or facing political difficulties.

On August 29, in the afternoon, we received our obediences, celebrated Vespers, and shared a festive supper. During the month of August, we also welcomed our two new chaplains who, alternately, come to celebrate the Eucharist at 8:30 a.m. One is a Servite of Mary, Pierre Houle, and the other is a diocesan priest, Father Gilles Drouin. We are very grateful to the diocese for appointing these two priests who travel from Quebec to come and celebrate in Beauport.

On September 10, the DMA Fraternity began its activities by watching a documentary about our brother, Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati. After watching it, we had a long discussion. It was very touching and very enriching! The following Thursday, the members of the Eucharistic Fraternity returned to the Cenacle to participate in adoration and the weekly celebration of the Eucharist.

On the morning of the 13th, we met our Servite of Mary chaplain and shared lunch with him. The next day, after Mass, around 10:30 a.m., we welcomed Father Gilles Drouin and shared a meal with him. We greatly appreciated this time of mutual acquaintance and sharing.

On Friday the 19th, we had our first community meeting, organized by the general council. By decision of this council, we now have a single prioress in Beauport, and that is Sister Marlaine Lalancette, our general prioress. Sister Élisabeth, who was the local prioress, is now the assistant to Sister Marie Claire Couture, the general bursar.



On Sunday, September 20 at 4 p.m., during the family Mass at Sainte Gertrude, the leaders highlighted the opening of the pastoral year. Several booths offered possible commitments or catechetical paths. The DMA Family was well represented. This multicultural Eucharist attracts many young families and numerous children. Our Sister Judith, a pastoral agent, puts a lot of heart and energy into it.

On Thursday, September 25 at 7:30 PM, our brother François Pouliot came to celebrate Mass for the Eucharistic Fraternity. It was understandable that on this evening of heavy rain, several regular attendees did not dare to take the road. On the evening of Saturday, the 27th, Sister Nathalie Roberge returned from the session she gave to the Redemptorist Sisters of Ste-Thérèse-de-Blainville, on the Eucharistic Prayers. An intense week for her, but also as enjoyable as it was enriching for others.

On October 1st, 12 sisters went to the Shrine of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux to celebrate the one affectionately called Little Thérèse. She is the patroness of our neighboring parish, and for a very long time, we have been visiting her annually, asking her to send us vocations. In the very beginning, we used to go on foot and barefoot, with the fervor of our youth.

On October 7th, we renewed our vows during the community Eucharist, and in the evening, several sisters joined the brothers and parishioners of Saint

Dominic to celebrate the Feast of the Rosary. A few DMA sisters led the rosary that was scheduled in the program.

Our sister Judith has been in Rome since October 2 to participate in the Jubilee of Consecrated Persons. She will be joined by Sister Maria Elena, who will travel from Lima. The activities of this Jubilee took place from October 8 to 12. We will also consult Vatican News and Zenit for updates on this jubilee. Upon her return, Sister Judith will share her experience with us. She has already written to us! Long live technological progress!

The DMA Fraternity will have its annual retreat on October 25-26 at the Maison du Renouveau, with Sister Catherine Aubin O.P.

Our three sisters who were at the intercommunity infirmary of the Augustines of Mercy have left that place for the infirmary of the Sisters of Saint-Joseph-de-Saint-Vallier. They were warmly welcomed. We recognize a particularly touching family spirit. We give thanks to the Spirit for having guided the steps of our nurse and our prioress to this peaceful and fraternal place.

This letter gives you a glimpse of what our daily life has been and will be. We hope that you are in good health and ask the Queen of the Rosary to keep us under her protection.



Dominican Month of Peace

To all members of the Dominican family

Dear brothers and sisters,

For the past eight years, the Order has dedicated the Month of Peace to a country affected by violent conflict and human rights violations, drawing the attention of the Dominican family to the challenges faced by our sisters and brothers serving there. The Month of Peace begins on the first Sunday of Advent and continues until Epiphany, offering us a time of prayer and solidarity with members of the Order who are living and ministering under difficult circumstances. This year, the Month of Peace will focus on Cameroon, beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2025. The people of Cameroon have endured prolonged violent conflict and widespread human rights violations, leading to deep tensions within the country. Many have been forced to flee, seeking refuge in neighboring nations. These ongoing challenges also affect the Church and members of the Dominican family. Further details about the situation in Cameroon will be shared in the coming weeks.

For this year's Month of Peace, the Dominican family in Cameroon has chosen the theme: "Truth and Justice for Lasting Peace." In the words of Pope Paul VI, "If you want peace, work for justice." (World Day of Peace, January 1, 1972) Please also remember in your prayers our sisters and brothers in Haiti, Ukraine, Myanmar, the Holy Land, and all those living in life-threatening circumstances.

How to send your financial contributions:

Banking Information for Peace Month

ORDO PRÆDICATORUM Convento Santa Sabina, Piazza Pietro d'Illiria 1, 00153 Rome, Italy

Syndicus Ordinis +39 06 57 940 209 – 7 +39 06 57 940 611 – syndic@curia.op.org

Do not forget to indicate «CAMEROON» in the memo.

Thank you for your cooperation and support to our Dominican family in Cameroon. May God abundantly bless your efforts of solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Cameroon and the financial contributions you make to support them.

Yours in Saint Dominic,

Sr. Jacintha Gracy Miranda, OP fr. Aniedi Okure, OP

DSIC-JPIC Promoter General Promoter for Justice and Peace

Fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner III, OP

Master of

What do you seek?

A word from our novitiate in Vancouver.

“What do you seek?” This question, so simple, yet endlessly profound, echoes through every step of our Dominican vocation.

It is the question that meets us at the threshold of discernment, the one that quietly insists on being asked again and again.

Returning to the novitiate as novice master, I find this question resounding within me with renewed depth. As I began this journey alongside with Andrew Angelo Antes (35), and Andrew Jacob Heakes (28), we have chosen to let this question become our compass. May it be our spiritual GPS, guiding our steps, shaping our choices, and deepening our prayer.

After a joyful season of ministry in Ottawa, the novitiate offers me another grace: the grace to sit down. To sit and rediscover the foundation upon which our days are built. To sit and listen, entering trust, allowing confidence to grow. To sit and reflect, so that reflection may precede action.

This year, I hope we may receive this grace together with the novices: the grace of slowing time, of letting silence speak, of embracing our limits with honesty and hope. May we learn to live authentically, following Christ in humility.

Andrew Angelo Antes and Andrew Jacob Heakes wish to share with you their reflections on the Dominican novitiate they are embracing. Please keep us all in your prayers.

Fr. Andrew Jacob Heakes, novice



In a world as big and often troubled as this one, I am amazed that out of all the places in the world that anybody could find themselves when turning 28 years old, that I (of all people) would find myself here.

Yet I find peace coming to this point and finding these things here



The two novice-friars, Andrew Angelo Antes and Andrew Jacob Heakes, with their novice-master, Fr. Dieudonné Bigirimana (in the center).

seem to be filling my deepest desires, like spending time studying the Dominican Saints. Like how, I enjoy of all things today, to spend time with Jesus Christ in the chapel as he investigates me from his palace of divine humility. Or how I sense the Holy Spirit moving through my brother's novice.

Yes, how strange to be here now. As exciting as these thoughts are of the uniqueness of this life; the thought of what comes next fills me with a feeling similar to starting to run alongside a moving train and reaching out for the grab handle to pull oneself on to the step. It is the exhilaration at where will I go? What will our mission be? Will I cry like St. Dominic? Will many be saved? I look at the broad and dry land of Canada and wonder if these first few drops of rain mean that more clouds are forming, and if we will be prepared welcome them.



Fr. Andrew Angelo Antes, novice

The novitiate is a period of trial and discernment. During this time, a novice gains a clearer understanding of their vocation by living according to the Order's way of life. The community trains and assesses whether one can embrace the Order's charism and rule. However, for the novice, this year is more than just an evaluation. It is a sacred time to face both the joys and challenges that come with choosing the religious life.

The Novitiate as a process requires more than discipline; it requires detachment. Before our five-day retreat that initiated the novitiate, our novice master asked us a question: "Imagine the novitiate is a hike—what will you bring, and what will you leave behind?" I replied that I would bring everything—my hopes, dreams, and frustrations. Only through walking can I discover what is necessary and what must be left behind.

Detachment, then, is not rejecting oneself but letting go of illusions about who I believe I am. It is allowing God's grace to shape who I am meant to become. This cannot happen without surrender. In other words, one must relinquish the ego and enter the rhythm of community, united in heart and mind in the pursuit of God.

Such surrender may seem unusual in a world that values personal success and recognition. Why would anyone choose a path that requires them to forget themselves? The answer is love. As Christians, we are called to live as Jesus did. Although He is with God, He did not cling to His equality with God. Instead, He came down to live among us. His love was not distant; it reached out to strangers, the poor, and sinners, inviting all to dine with Him as friends.

For me, living in the novitiate means learning to love. Detachment prepares the heart to love freely—without self-interest or fear. In this way, the novitiate teaches me to be more human, more fraternal. It guides me to express, in word and deed, the truth that God is Love.

My Diaconal Ordination

Fr. Lamphone Phonevilay

Saturday, October 18, I was ordained a deacon at Saint-Dominique Church in Quebec City. It was a moment full of emotions. Several friars came from our various Canadian convents, as well as members of my family and friends. Dominican sisters from Quebec and members of Dominican lay fraternities were also present. Among the attendees, there was also a representative of the Laotian Community of Quebec, as well as Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, a secular institute that worked in the evangelization of Laos but whose members were forced to leave when the country was under communist regime. They were eager to be present at what was possibly the ordination of the first deacon of Laotian origin in Canada!

Bishop Jean Tailleux, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Quebec, presided over this celebration and conferred the sacrament of Holy Orders on me. Bishop Tailleux impressed everyone with a homily that was both interesting and relevant. He is also a man with a great heart: he gave me the book of blessings as an ordination gift! This was a gesture as unexpected as it was appreciated!

The word that best summarizes the ministry and identity of the deacon is service. The deacon is a man who is at the service of the altar, the Word, and the poor. While awaiting my priestly ordination, I will strive to live my diaconal ministry as best I can, by officiating at Mass on Sundays at Saint-Dominique Church, by giving catechesis to the catechumens and adult confirmands of the Saint-Jean-Baptiste parish (the parish in which Saint-Dominique Church is located), and by continuing my podcast "The Muscular and the Monk," a podcast that allows me to bring the Gospel to the peripheries!

And of course, I am counting on the prayers of the entire Dominican family!



Homily for the Diaconal Ordination of Fr. Lamphone Phonevilay

October 18th, on the Feast of Saint Luke, Evangelist.

(Mgr. Jean Tailleux)

Dear brothers and sisters,

It is with grateful emotion that I join you to celebrate the ordination of one of our brothers to the diaconate in view of the priesthood. Dear Brother Lamphone, it is at the end of a long journey that you find yourself here today to enter the Order of Deacons.

Your Dominican friars and the larger Dominican family, as well as the family in which you were born and raised, are gathered to give thanks for this calling. Many here have known you during your years of discernment, and some are themselves in discernment.

At the heart of this celebration, we will pray for you, whom God has chosen, a choice that the Church has recognized, a choice that you have accepted to embrace humbly and joyfully, but also with a measure of awe, as Cardinal Aveline emphasized to the new bishops when faced with God's call: it always carries great joy and also a measure of fear. And with good reason! The texts from the Word of God on this feast of Saint Luke have everything to remind us that this mission may bring you both joy and comfort but also doubts and trials.

There will above all be many encounters that you cannot imagine today and that will undoubtedly surpass everything you can imagine. The promise made to you today is not that there will never be difficulties, but that God will always be with you; He will always be faithful to you. And this faithfulness of God will often be manifested through the presence of brothers and sisters in the mission. Everyone will have their own way of contributing, and you will also have yours. In the short excerpt from the letter to Timothy, no fewer than ten people are mentioned, including Paul and Timothy. This passage shows us all the facets of the mission that await you and the great variety of companions and friends in the mission:

- First, Paul, who suffers from having presented his defense without the support of his brothers, and who writes to the young Timothy, bishop of Ephesus, asking him to come and visit him. His request to bring his coat as winter approaches likely indicates a form of precariousness or indigence



- The young bishop Timothy, who was chosen and called by Paul. He faced hesitations from the community due to his young age, but he will have the courage to witness his faith even to the point of martyrdom;

- A brother in faith, Demas, who had until then been by Paul's side during the hard times of captivity, and who abandons Paul or deserts for an easier situation when things seem to become too demanding;

- Crescent and Tite, who are sent on a mission to regions where evangelization still needed to be pursued; - Luke, the holy evangelist whom we celebrate today and whom Paul elsewhere describes as the beloved physician. We know that he remained by Paul's side until the end;

- Mark, who, although he abandoned at one point, will recover. He is called a son by Peter in his first epistle. It is to this witness that we usually attribute the Gospel that bears his name;

- Tychicus, who was sent to Ephesus to join Timothy. Paul would describe him as a beloved brother and faithful minister whose ministry as a messenger was essential. One might even think that he had good feet for having traveled so much!

- Carpos, who lives in Troas and can be understood to enjoy Paul's special trust, who entrusts him with the role of guardian of his important belongings such as books, scrolls, and clothes.

- Alexander, who works as a blacksmith, and who openly and violently opposes Paul's message.

And this list could be extended with names like Lydie, a great witness of faith, who was so important for the logistical support of Paul's mission. In the great Tradition that dates back to the Church Fathers, many of these witnesses are counted among the 72 whom Jesus sent two by two, ahead of Him, bringing and offering His peace and, above all, bearing good news: "The kingdom of God has come near to you!"

Your ordination comes at a time when, in many areas and situations within the Church, we are at a crossroads, facing new circumstances and obstacles that sometimes seem difficult. But there are also unexpected opportunities, brothers and sisters coming to us from distant horizons who give an improbable dimension, until recently, to the mission here. And you are a part of it! You have the privilege of arriving as a deacon at a demanding, yet also stimulating, moment in our history, where we see more clearly that the Spirit goes before us and assists us in these transitions.

On the day of your perpetual profession, it was you who took the initiative to offer yourself and say, 'Here I am, Lord.' At that moment, you made the offering of your life in the profession of vows. And your brothers welcomed you on this journey together, guided by the ideal presented through the witness of life following Christ, according to Saint Dominic. This 'Here I am,' so fundamental, you took up again just now, but in a different dynamic. You made yourself available to God once more, but this time for ministry, to become His minister and to carry out 'the function of deacon with charity and simplicity of heart, to assist the bishop and his priests, and to help the Christian people progress,' as mentioned in the Ritual.

Today, through the ministry of the Church, God chooses you and sends you as His minister in the Order of the Diaconate. It is a new adventure that begins with a new availability, new nuances. You will see, you will go on paths that will surpass anything you can imagine! At the evening of his life, while he was hospitalized at the end of last February, Pope Francis summarized in

this way, using the language of the arts, the selfless and gratuitous service of the deacon:

"The Lord, in the Gospel, describes this (diaconal) service in a phrase as simple as it is clear: 'Lend, expecting nothing in return, and you will be blessed' (Luke 6:35). A few words that carry within them the sweet fragrance of friendship. First, that of God for us, but also ours for Him. For the deacon, this attitude is not a peripheral aspect of his actions, but a fundamental dimension of his being. Indeed, he dedicates himself, in his ministry, to being both a 'sculptor' and a 'painter' of the merciful face of the Father, a witness to the mystery of God-Trinity."

In our preparatory conversations, you shared with me that you wanted the people who will participate in your ordination to remember "that there is a true joy in saying 'yes' to the Lord when He calls us, that there is a joy in seeking to do His will and to make ourselves available to serve Him and the Church." You went on to note the possible obstacle that can make a person hesitate to say yes to God's call by emphasizing above all the sacrifices of the mission.

The Word of God on this feast day is rich with witnesses of all kinds who have been chosen and sent. May the experience of St. Paul, who found that true joy lies in God's faithfulness, never leave you in your ministry. Never forget that He will always be faithful to you.

And for you who have come to pray, my prayer today for all of you is that, whatever your connection with our brother Lamphone and the reasons that brought you here, you may leave with a grace that will sustain you in your pilgrimage on this earth, following Christ, and at the threshold of the World Missionary Sunday that we will celebrate tomorrow. Together, I invite you to never forget this urgent call of Christ: "Therefore pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." And let us pray for our brother Lamphone, who today enters the Order of Deacons.

Amen.

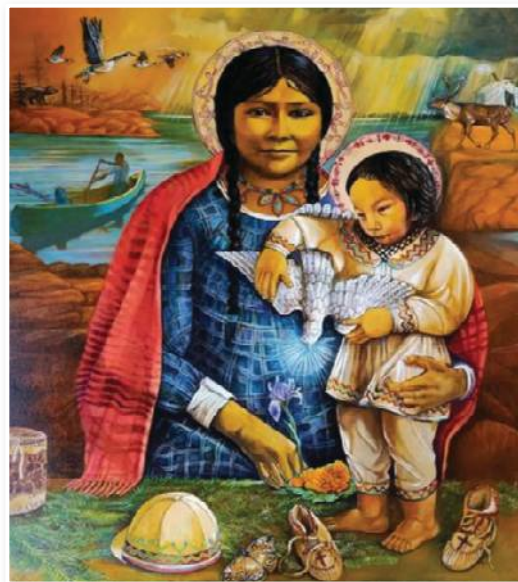
“WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?”

Fr. Ghislain Paris, o.p.

Throughout the pilgrimage of this autumn 2025, this was often one of the first questions the Innus asked the group. Our answer: “There are 16 of us, mostly from the Montreal metropolitan area. One person from the Quebec City region... another from Alberta, and our emeritus bishop from Papua (now in Ottawa).” Diocese of St-Hyacinthe, Diocese of Saint-Jean-Longueuil, Joliette and St-Jérôme Mont-Laurier / 9 women and 7 men / 1 nun and 4 priests / people from the “general public” including 5 from pastoral animation / 7 pilgrims from last year and 9 new ones “You came from so far away – to see us, to get to know us, and to listen to us!” The reaction ranged between admiration and a hint of incredulity (implying: ‘so you think we deserve that you travel here!’)

A pilgrimage of faith

The first official act of the group was to stop at Ste-Anne de Beaupré to pray to the “kukum” (grandmother) of the Innu people. The celebration echoed the words and texts of Pope Francis at Lac Ste-Anne (July 26, 2022). The next day, Sunday, we stopped again at a small sanctuary dedicated to St. Anne, at Îslets-Jérémie, to see this place of Indigenous popular devotion. The next stop took us to Pessiamit (Betsiamites): first contacts with the residents of the reserve: welcoming bites, museum visit, introduction to legends in a teepee. Father Gérard Boudreault, O.M.I. (sponsor of the Notre-Dame des Innus painting), a pilgrim from last year, then welcomed us for a bilingual Mass (French – Innu-aimun chants). And we had an appointment for dinner with the new bishop of Baie-Comeau, as a way to clearly signify that we were visiting a diocesan Church as a small ecclesial group. Mgr Pierre Charland, a Franciscan, welcomed us to his diocese, listened to us, asked questions about our motivations, and blessed us! He also recently composed the prayer to Mary accompanying the painting.



Painting by Anne-Marie Forest

Observations

I want to immediately point out how each church in Innu territory has incorporated symbols from their daily life: artworks by artists for the Stations of the Cross (with round snowshoes), stained glass windows depicting their life in nature (fish, caribou, geese, etc.), tabernacle in the style of a communal tent, birchbark canoes serving as supports for the altar, and so on. An appropriate and successful inculturation of symbols, even though the parishes are no longer crowded, as in the rest of Quebec. A striking new element in their search for identity: there is a modern museum in each community, with state-of-the-art techniques and highly skilled guides.

I would also add that everywhere we enjoyed abundant, tasty food typical of their cuisine: salmon, walleye, goose, caribou, partridge, with bannock, etc. Every day, we could feast on local food. In the evening, we celebrated the votive Mass for the safeguarding of



creation, according to the new official texts of Leo XIV, in continuity with Pope Francis's initiative. It was easy for us to give thanks for the beauties of creation while being aware of the damage inflicted on our common home.

The highlight of the pilgrimage

The two days spent in the two Innu communities of Sept-Îles, forming a single legal entity (Uashat mak Mani-utenam – Maliotenam formerly in Moisie and Ushat – Sept-Îles), left the deepest impression on us. On the eve of Truth and Reconciliation Day, the stay began with a mass celebrated with the parish leaders, followed by a meal offered at the presbytery by our hosts. Finally, Noëlla spoke to us about her experience in the residential school, which she lived through locally while her parents went into the forest for the winter, according to their nomadic habits. It took her 40 years before she could begin to talk about her experience with her children and grandchildren, about the abuses committed by the nuns. We were her first official audience. It took a lot of courage on her part. What I take away once again is that the healing process is long, gradual, and happens through a deep faith in the Creator to get back on your feet, beyond the necessary therapeutic tools of our world or theirs. The harm is serious. Before reaching reconciliation, the stage of truth remains essential and cannot be skipped! Only divine power truly accomplishes this work of reconstruction. We met three women standing strong and having become pillars of this community, while some of us listened at length to an elder in a wheelchair, still on the journey, far from reaching forgiveness!



The day of September 30 itself unfolded in several stages.

(1) First, the march through the streets with families and Indigenous police: about 150 people walking with drums. Brief stops at the cemetery and laying down of small orange shirts, a new stop in front of a fence with children's shoes.

(2) Community lunch shared with the community (200-300 people) with traditional dishes prepared by them.

(3) Pow-wow (3 hours): explanations of the meaning of the event (dances, a way of praying), drums, regalia (clothing worn and made by the dancers), shawl dance, and jingle dress dance. It was a true privilege

for us to participate and at the same time a "cultural shock" with this spirituality in action.

(4) Evening Eucharistic concelebration, presided over by Gilles, our bishop emeritus. Special liturgy for reconciliation inspired by prayer suggestions scattered throughout the writings of Mission chez Nous. Personal prayer of an Innu elder present at the celebration. There was reason to end the day and this part of the journey with a great feast!

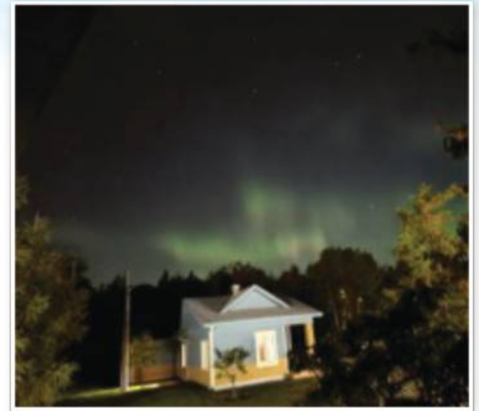
A bit of tourism

At the end of the journey, the organizers of the pilgrimage had planned a whale-watching cruise with the zodiac boats from the Essipit community. The 12 brave souls, bundled up, were rewarded with encounters with numerous whales (minke whale, fin whale, two blue whales... gray seals lounging on the rocks) and a surprise visit from a 55-ton behemoth that passed just 2 feet from the boat while we were drifting at a respectful distance.

In the evening, we celebrated the votive Mass for the protection of creation, according to the new official texts of Leo XIV, in continuity with Pope Francis's initiative. It was easy for us to give thanks for the beauties of creation while being aware of the damage imposed on our common home.

Where do we come from? Exactly where do we live? By treading on portions of land that the Innu have inhabited for 4,000 years, who actually owns them? How can we coexist and share without imposing or dominating? Could these small Indigenous communities, very young – with an average age under twenty – have things to teach us? Even our Church? We got a glimpse of it!

To continue reflecting, I suggest "Confluents," the magazine from Mission chez Nous and especially the radio program of the same name, where Mathieu Lavigne and Catherine Ego meet all the stakeholders and let them express their point of view.



TOWARDS THE HEIGHTS “VERSO L’ALTO!”

Pilgrimage of the Pier-Giorgio Frassati fraternity (saint)

By Sylvain Bossé, lay Dominican

Summarizing a life experience in a few pages is certainly not obvious at first. It is not a solo adventure, but a group adventure that begins at the start of 2024. The initial idea was to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Pier-Giorgio Frassati’s death and to undertake a pilgrimage experience following in the footsteps of Pier-Giorgio Frassati. Over the course of the preparations, we learn, by the end of 2024, that he will be canonized in August 2025. However, life has its twists and following the death of Pope Francis and the election of Leon XIV, the canonization date is postponed to September 7, 2025, during our trip to Italy! We have an invaluable opportunity, which required some modifications to our itinerary, to include Rome in our travel plan.

*August 27, 2025 to September 1, 2025
– Montreal – Milan – Florence – Bologna*

On this August 27, 2025, the time of departure has finally arrived, not without some fears related to the Air Canada flight attendants' strike, which led to a detour through Casablanca for two members of our group. After a stay in Florence, where we visited the San Marco Convent to see Fra Angelico's frescoes, and Bologna for the tomb of Saint Dominic located in the Church of the same name, where our group received a special blessing for the success of our pilgrimage, and the library of the San Domenico Convent, we begin the stages directly connected to our walk in the footsteps of Frassati.

September 2, 2025 – Pollone

Pollone held an important place in the life of Pier-Giorgio Frassati, who spent his summers in the family villa of the Ametis (Pier-Giorgio's mother's family), which is today known as Villa Ametis Frassati. Naturally, the references and stories related to Pier-Giorgio are numerous in this small town located in the mountains in the Piedmont region. We can note Pier-Giorgio's habit of leaving the villa very early in the morning to attend Mass at the Sanctuary of Oropa and returning to Pollone before the rest of the family woke up and noticed his absence. The family, especially Pier-Giorgio's father, was resistant to religious practice and unaware of his regular attendance at religious services.



Photo taken in front of the Church of San Domenico, in Turin. Second row (from left to right): Diane Conté, Sylvain Bossé, Martin Lefrançois, Marie-Claude Paquette, Manon Pratte, and Marie-Gina Lacroix Front: Stéphane Frappier, Monique Boisclair, and Jean-Pierre Doray



Bologna relics: Relics of Saint Dominic in the Basilica of San Domenico in Turin

Pollone was also an opportunity for him to climb and spend time in contemplation on the mountain, either alone or with his friends.

Our stop in Pollone was primarily aimed at visiting the villa that houses the furniture from Pier-Giorgio's room, which comes from the family home in Turin. Before this visit, we make a detour to visit the Church of San Fabiano and San Sebastiano, where Pier-Giorgio was baptized, and the cemetery that contains the tomb of the Ametis-Frassati family. Despite a violent storm, we managed to find the family tomb before heading to the villa where our French-speaking guide was waiting for us. After the visit, we took out the banner specially made for our trip and discovered that it would become an ambassador for us and allow us to make wonderful encounters, as it would open the door to a meeting with Wanda Grawonska, Pier-Giorgio's 98-year-old niece, who is deeply involved in the canonization of our saint. This unexpected meeting will allow us to obtain admission for two members of the Fraternity for the moment of worship scheduled in Rome on the eve of the canonization.



Photo of the pilgrims taken at Villa Ametis in Pollone with the banner of Pier-Giorgio Frassati

September 2 to 4, 2025 - Sanctuary of Oropa

After our visit to Pollone, we head to the Sanctuary of Oropa, which we reach in the early evening. We will stay two nights in this place with temperatures around 10 Celsius instead of the 28 degrees in Florence and Bologna. Despite our attempts, the heating does not work, so we will therefore be cool during our stay.

For some of us, the canonization represents the most important moment of the pilgrimage, while for others it is the ascent of the mountain that stands out as the highlight of their adventure. Manon, our leader, having decided to take a day to pray and meditate, therefore, there are 8 of us setting off from inside the Sanctuary at an altitude of 1,195 meters, and our hike will end at around 2,000 meters, 800 meters higher! According to the information obtained, we should be able to do the round trip in about 2.5 hours. For Pier-Giorgio and young people under 40, this is certainly possible. For a group aged 57 to 68, it is rather difficult if not impossible, and it will take us nearly 8 hours to complete the round trip, as we cannot go faster than the person with the slowest pace.

After more than 3 hours and 30 minutes of effort and self-reflection, we all reach the summit. What a moment of grace and peace it is to find ourselves above the clouds with an unobstructed view of the valley when the clouds are less dense. A moment of grace, for being on one of the peaks of Mont Poggio at the site of the cross dedicated to Pier-Giorgio by Pope John Paul II encourages prayer, contemplation, and the feeling of being a tiny speck before this vastness. The expression 'Verso l'Alto' (Towards the Heights) takes on its full meaning, and I better understand Pier-Giorgio's love for the mountains, as they allow us to return to the essence of our lives.

After taking photos and enjoying a good lunch, we begin our return journey to the Sanctuary. We follow exactly the same route as on the way there, with its more or less steep slopes, as we cross fields with "gifts from the animals" and encounter a herd of goats led by "Mr. Buck," as well as, both on the way there and back, a herd of cows, oxen, and a horse led by "Mr. Donkey." Two of our valiant walkers, Diane and Monique, become friends with the donkey. We resume our path, but the donkey has other plans and decides to follow us along with the rest of the herd for several dozen meters, but ultimately, we manage to part ways with our new friends. After more than 20,000 steps, sore muscles, minor injuries, and aching ankles, we finally reach the Sanctuary to shower, take a short rest before dinner, during which we will celebrate the birthday of the youngest member of the fraternity.

Our last morning in Oropa is devoted to exploring the Sanctuary and the Way of the Cross. We attend Mass and visit the interior of the Church dedicated to the Black Madonna. The visit to the Way of the Cross, considered a World Heritage site by UNESCO, is



Photo taken at the top of Mount Poggio in front of the cross dedicated to Pier-Giorgio Frassati and blessed by Pope John Paul II

somewhat disappointing because the chapels are dilapidated, and it is difficult to admire their interiors due to the grilles installed over the years. After lunch, we hit the road to Turin. I conclude this summary of our ascent with this declaration of love from Pier-Giorgio regarding his passion for the mountains: "I love the mountains more each day, and I would like, if my studies allowed it, to spend entire days on these heights, contemplating the grandeur of the Creator in the purity of the air."

September 4 to 6, 2025 - Turin

This city is central to the life of Pier-Giorgio, who was born there on April 6, 1901, and died there on July 4, 1925, at the age of 24 from poliomyelitis. It is in this city that he carried out most of his work helping the underprivileged. It is also in Turin that he became a member of the Third Order of Saint Dominic in 1923, taking the name Jerome in honor of Savonarola.

We are fortunate to visit Turin with a guide who introduced us to the main places of prayer frequented

by Frassati. During our guided tour, we discovered that our saint was baptized twice, at home and in Pollone at the Church of San Fabiano and San Sebastiano, as we could see in both registers. Obviously, with the development of infrastructure, the living conditions of the people of Turin are now very different from those prevailing in the first quarter of the 20th century.

A remarkable fact during Pier-Giorgio's funeral was that his family realized the impact he had had on the poor and destitute of Turin when they saw the crowd gathered in front of the Church, which was located across the street from his home. Additionally, our pilgrimage will take us to the Turin Cathedral where, after a brief stay in Rome in connection with the upcoming canonization, Pier-Giorgio's body was returned to Turin, allowing us to pay our respects. A few meters from Pier-Giorgio is also the Shroud of Turin, which is kept in a glass case covered with a cloth.

6 septembre 2025 – Voyage vers Rome

Strangely, even though we arrived at Porta Nuova station with plenty of time, 7 members of the group missed the train to Rome. You can easily imagine the look on Marie-Gina's and my face when we realized that the others had stayed on the platform, watching the train leave for Rome. Despite this mishap, we all ended up in Rome with a 1 hour 20-minute delay on our schedule. It should be mentioned that Diane and I, the two members designated for the evening of adoration on Pier-Giorgio Frassati, had very little time to prepare and get to our appointment.

We take a taxi to go to the Chapel of the Gregorian University in Rome. We arrive towards the end of the prayer time and just in time for the cocktail. Many young and very young people are present and follow the guidelines of the evening focused on *Les types louches*, a group founded by Pier-Giorgio and centered on friendship and mountain excursions. Even if it is not explicitly stated, the causes dear and important to our saint, the poor, are certainly not forgotten. Once again, our banner works wonders and allows us to share and interact with several participants: young people, older people, Dominican brothers, sisters, Americans, English, Italians, French, Brazilians, and Canadians.

But how many of us have had the chance to meet a miracle survivor? Diane and I had this privilege while speaking with Father Juan Gutierrez, a Mexican priest residing in California, who is the second recognized

miracle of Pier-Giorgio that opened the doors to his sainthood. Although our conversation took place in English, this encounter represents a memorable moment of my pilgrimage.

September 7, 2025 – Canonization

Finally, the big day has arrived, the day of the canonization of Pier-Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis. A photo taken by Jean-Pierre at five in the morning shows the arrival of pilgrims for the celebration.

Yes indeed! Our Airbnb is named Domus Solis Vaticano and is located near St. Peter's Square. From the 7th floor of our accommodation, we have an unobstructed view of the Vatican dome. We join the line of pilgrims who are already waiting for the canonization around 7:00 a.m. with our faithful banner as well as the flags of Quebec and Canada. The crowd is immense, patient, in good spirits, prayerful, and very young. Moreover, there are some things we rarely see in Quebec, many young priests and nuns. Once again, there is a lot of interaction and many people around us are speaking French.

After passing through the security gates (there are many of them all over Italy and Europe), we are on the Square but remain far from the forecourt. The important thing is to be present and to experience this special moment in full sunlight. To fully understand the significance of Pier-Giorgio for both young and old, here is an excerpt from the homily delivered on this occasion by Pope Leo XIV:

“Pier Giorgio encountered the Lord through school and church groups – Catholic Action, the St. Vincent Conferences, the FUCI, the Dominican Third Order – and witnessed it through his joy of living and being a Christian in prayer, friendship, and charity. To such an extent that, seeing him walk the streets of Turin with carts full of aid for the poor, his friends had nicknamed him 'Frassati Transport Company!' Even today, the life of Pier Giorgio is a light for lay spirituality. For him, faith was not a private devotion: driven by the power of the Gospel and his belonging to church associations, he engaged generously in society, contributed to political life, and devoted himself with zeal to the service of the poor.”

Taken from the homily of Pope Leo XIV –
September 7, 2025

After a failed attempt to attend communion, we return to the AIRBNB to rest a bit before heading out to other places to visit. Our presence at the canonization will mark the end of our journey and visits to significant sites following in the footsteps of Pier-Giorgio Frassati.

Some gastronomic and travel considerations

Visiting Italy without talking about food would be a crime, if not heresy. Even though we ate well, the quality of restaurants can vary considerably. The pizza in Turin was delicious, while the one in Florence was so-so. The hamburger in Turin was decent, but the one in Rome was exquisite. The fish and lasagna in Bologna were sublime, and let's not even mention the gelatos, which some of us indulged in joyfully. Finally, when we ate at our lodging, there was always a way to find excellent bottles of wine at a reasonable price.

For getting around, nothing beats the train and tram to travel from point A to point B efficiently and with a good track record for punctuality.

Conclusion

Even though I am not the biggest traveler, I fell in love with Italy. I spent 11 wonderful days with the members of the Fraternity following in the footsteps of Pier-Giorgio and visiting some other Dominican sites. I



Photo taken on September 6, 2025, during the prayer evening for Pier-Giorgio Frassati: Diane Conté, Father Juan Gutierrez, a Mexican priest residing in California (second miracle recognized for the canonization of Pier-Giorgio Frassati), and Sylvain Bossé

will certainly return there with Marie-Gina in a few years to spend time in Rome and, who knows, visit Santa Sabina and even make it to Sicily. In the end, I would summarize this time of rejuvenation and travel in this way:

Wonder, prayer, meditation, moments of grace, etc. I could extend the list infinitely. I experienced many moments of joy and happiness during our journey. But I will remain, in some ways, the same Sylvain, with a new serenity that I hope will color the rest of my life.

I conclude this text with this verse taken from the Letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians (13:13): "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

This verse very well summarizes the life of Pier-Giorgio Frassati, and I wish for everyone to live by and experience this love.

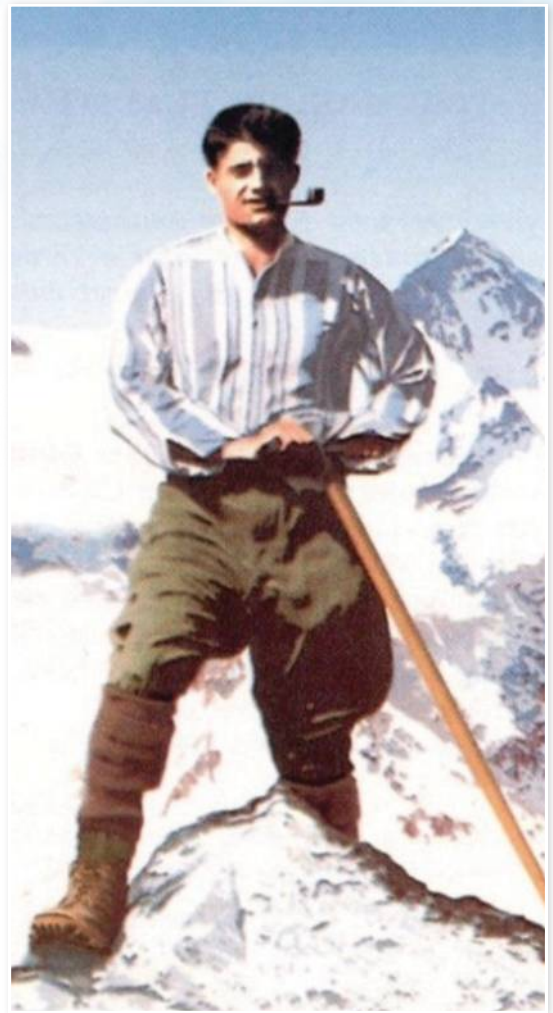


Photo of Pier-Giorgio Frassati at the top of the mountain with his famous pipe.



Photo taken from the 7th floor of the building housing our AIRBNB with pilgrims heading toward St. Peter's Square at 5:00 AM.



Photo of Pope Leo XIV at the canonization of Pier-Giorgio Frassati.

Color Festival at Horeb October 2025

Fr. Ghislain Paris, o.p.

Horeb held its annual Color Festival on October 6th. It took place just a few days after the pilgrimage to Indigenous lands that I had the pleasure of accompanying. The beautiful colors were still very present, even though the trees had lost half of their leaves. There were enough left to delight the 25 guests gathered for the occasion around a lunch following a morning during which four pilgrims shared their recent experience: three priests from Mr. Mathieu Lavigne, Mission Director at *Mission chez Nous*.

The priests and religious who had come for this meeting came from the Montreal metropolitan area and from all backgrounds: two priests from a new community in black cassocks, two regulars of Horeb showing the place to two colleagues, seven priests from the diocese of Mont-Laurier/Saint-Jérôme meeting at Horeb every two months, a bishop emeritus, a brother from St. Gabriel, and three Dominican Brothers... a colorful mix of a cosmopolitan assembly like our Church (Italian, Norwegian, French, Congolese, and 17 native Quebecers). The pilgrims were greatly

impressed by the quality of our audience's listening; a few questions, explanatory comments about these Innus, who have been here for a long time but whom we still know little about. Elsewhere in this RÉSEAU, you will find a more detailed report of this pilgrimage on Innu territory in Quebec.

The midday concelebration was themed around the pilgrimage. We revisited the celebration of 'the safeguarding of creation' experienced at Les Escoumins / Essipit during the journey: beginning in front of the chapel with the prayer to the four cardinal points / excerpts from the Word suggested by the most recent ritual revised by Leo XIV / sharing reflections and prayers contributed by Innu participants and published in the magazine *Convergences* / spontaneity in the songs and fervor in the interventions of the concelebrants. A beautiful moment of communion, indeed! before the feast that followed this Eucharist. In the afternoon, some stayed to enjoy the scenery, while the annual general meeting of Horeb took place. By around 3 p.m., everything was concluded.



Conference – The Interior Redevelopment of Notre-Dame de Paris

November 4, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (St-Albert-le-Grand Church, Montréal)

November 6, 19:30 PM (Saint-Dominique Church, Québec)



After a historical overview of the evolution of the liturgical space of Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral, Dominican friar Marc Chauveau will present its current redesign and reflections on the challenge of integrating contemporary artworks into a worship and heritage space, notably through commissions for new liturgical furniture, a tapestry series of seven pieces, and a set of six stained glass windows.

Fr. Marc Chauveau, who is trained as an art historian, is particularly interested in 20th-century and contemporary art. His aim is to make contemporary art accessible to as many people as possible, whether they are familiar with it or not.

Since 2009, he has been curating contemporary art exhibitions at the La Tourette convent near Lyon, offering internationally recognized artists the opportunity to engage their works in dialogue with Le Corbusier's architectural masterpiece. This will be the subject of another conference in Quebec City on November 9th at 2:30 PM, at Saint-Dominique Church in Quebec.

Festival in Santa Teresa

Great celebration at the Santa Teresa parish on the occasion of the patronal feast. The church was packed. At the heart of their celebration, the faithful kept the memory of our brother Calixto, whose photo was prominently displayed. The provincial prior, Brother Yves Bériault, had the pleasure of participating alongside Brother Jose Apolinario. He commented: "The community's attachment to Brother Calixto is truly incredible. He left an indelible impression of holiness on all these faithful."



Sudden departure of Friars Calixto and Hugues Dumais

Two deaths in one month



Two deaths occurred back-to-back in the Province last August. The friars were shocked to learn of the sudden passing of Friar Ariel Calixto Castellanos Sanchez on August 5. He had been lent to us by his province in Colombia for ministry to the Spanish-speaking community of Sainte-Thérèse d'Avila, where he had just been appointed pastor. The brothers of the Convent remembered him on August 15. The following day, the entire Christian community of Santa-Teresa paid tribute to him. In early September, a large crowd attended his funeral in Colombia where the remains had been repatriated.

Brother Ariel Calixto was born on January 2, 1978. He made his first profession in the Order on July 9, 1997, and was ordained to the priesthood on March 20, 2004. He had been in Canada since March 2025.

Our brother Hugues Dumais, who had taken his vacation a little earlier than usual this year, had returned from Rimouski with what seemed to be a minor health issue. As the days went by, his condition continued to deteriorate, eventually requiring hospitalization. He passed away on August 22 at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal. He was surrounded by his brothers Roberto and Christian, as well as his Dominican confreres, Friar Peace-Michael and the prior, Fr. Martin Lavoie. He leaves in mourning his father Jean-Paul, another brother, Sylvain, as well as numerous nephews and nieces. His funeral was held on Saturday, August 30 at his Saint Albert-le-Grand convent. The burial took place at the Notre-Dame du Rosaire cemetery in Saint-Hyacinthe on September 2.

Brother Hugues was that welcoming and endearing figure of Saint Albert's Priory, for which he served as porter and cantor. In addition to his studies in theology, he had training in documentation techniques. Among his last tasks, he arranged the books in the library of the "new" convent. Born on February 1, 1961, Brother Hugues joined the Dominican Order in 2000. He made his first

profession on February 2 of the following year. He had been assigned to Montreal for several years.

Below is a message that our brother Hugues delivered in anticipation of a departure he surely did not expect to be so soon, which was read by Fr. Martin Lavoie, who presided his funeral:

Farewell letter from Brother Hugues Dumais

My very dear friends,

I do not know when or where we are, but warmly wrapped in our shared memories, and through the intermediary of a good Samaritan, I would like to leave you as a legacy that which illuminated my life, as well as the short maxims that were born from the sacred fire of my soul.

It is the wisdom of the Tree, which is often expressed as follows: "Every tree, as it raises its branches toward the sky, must increasingly bury its roots deep into the earth."

My dear friends, here is now how this truth, worthy of the Little Prince, resonates within me: 'Embrace the Sky, if you clasp the Earth.' Or sometimes it echoes like this: 'Only what is deep elevates.' But that's not all! As always, our divine Big Brother Jesus, always ready with the right and beautiful word for laughter; added his little evangelical touch, which comes back to me today to bequeath to you with all the love of my heart. Like every tree, and even more so like the one where our destinies united, Love follows the same illumination: 'You will love God better if you make your brothers and sisters your neighbor.'

'What more can be said... Nothing, except perhaps goodbye and see you soon... but not too soon, of course!'

A Dominican center that is gaining independence and changing its name.

Brigitte Quintal

After 125 years of teaching and theological and philosophical work in the service of the Church and society, the Dominican University College ceased its operations on September 30. It retained only a small Board of Directors, composed of three Dominican friars, Jacques Marcotte, Guy Rivard, and Hervé Tremblay, in order to preserve its civil Charter. Inspired by Fr. Didier Caenepeel's vision of founding an organization that provides meaning and vitality—a project that Friar Thomas de Gabory joined upon his arrival in Canada—and by the wishes of the Dominican professors, the College's Board of Directors supervised and supported the creation of a distinct and autonomous center.

Inspired by the intuition of Fr. Didier Caenepeel to establish an organization that provides meaning and inspiration—a project that Fr. Thomas de Gabory joined upon his arrival in Canada—and by the wishes of the Dominican professors, the College's Board of Directors supervised and supported the creation of a distinct and autonomous center. Thus, after overseeing the incorporation of CDEVs (Letters Patent obtained in 2023) and funding the creation of its website, the College secured charitable status for it. The time has now come for the Center to soar on its own.

With this in mind, and because the College is no longer responsible for managing its expenses, producing reports to the governments on its behalf, and ensuring its proper management, the Centre established its own governance by forming a Board of Directors whose members are Ghislain Paris, Luc Chartrand, and Brigitte Quintal. The aim was to relieve collaborators and chairholders of any administrative burden so that they could devote themselves entirely to their areas of activity. The Centre now comprises four components: 1. the CDEVs (with the Noël-Mailloux Chair), 2. the Chair in Gospel, Theology, and Life, 3. the Centre for Philosophy, and 4. the archives of the College and the Institute of Pastoral Studies. Each of these units has full autonomy over the content it offers.

Furthermore, in order to better reflect the full range of areas of expertise it encompasses, CDEVs is changing its name: it will become the Dominican Center for Studies and Training (CDEF). While the annual lecture program will continue to be offered, training sessions will be added starting in 2026, providing opportunities for those who wish to deepen their reflection on the Word, faith, or philosophical questions. It will also, in the near future, offer access to its digitized documentary and audio archives.

"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus (...) to preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season; (...) exhort, with all patience and teaching." (2 Tim 4:2)



*Humbert de Romans (1200 – 1277),
fifth Master General of the Order.*

*Stained glass window from St. Dominic's Church in
Washington, D.C. Photo by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.*

Canadian laypeople in collaboration with the nuns of Prouilhe

A Canadian lay couple offered their services to the nuns of Prouilhe, and the nuns eagerly accepted such welcome assistance. Gayle and Guy will spend the next year at the monastery, supporting the Dominicans in their mission of welcoming pilgrims and retreatants who regularly visit the site of Saint Dominic's first foundation.

A lesson on the history of the rosary and four stays at Prouilhe sparked this project. The couple discerned that a more consistent commitment was taking shape. "When we returned last spring to offer our help, it became clear to us that more constant support was needed. Despite the complexity of such a year-long project, I felt the Spirit urging me, and as soon as I spoke to Guy about it, he agreed enthusiastically," Gayle shared with us.

By offering their services to the nuns, the couple will find an environment conducive to their spiritual quest. They will be able to nurture their devotion to the Rosary while carrying out tasks that will benefit the nuns. Guy will take care of the technical services, wanting to implement sustainable maintenance

practices and supervise the site's needs, while Gayle will be more directly involved in hospitality: "Dishwashing, peeling vegetables, cleaning, various repairs (plumbing, painting, etc.), welcoming guests and pilgrims, facilitating meals to create an atmosphere of listening and mutual respect"—these are the tasks they are prepared for, which will also lighten the nuns' workload. "We are here to serve the Lord we love, and to deepen our relationship with the Blessed Virgin, whom we also love," says Gayle. That is their purpose.

The couple has life experience that they wish to put to contribution for the nuns. Guy, an electrical engineer, is also a handyman. Gayle has a musical background and looks forward to singing the praises of the Lord and, if necessary, even offering vocal coaching. And the couple has already worked in a five-star hotel! One would think our nuns placed a little ad somewhere! "We deeply believe that the spiritual gift of encouragement, our strong faith in Jesus Christ, our love for the Lord, and our love for our vocation as a couple (for 42 years) are probably the finest of the small gifts we can offer." The nuns will soon be convinced of this! (R.L.)



The Saint-Dominique Project will soon be on track

The 'Saint-Dominique project,' which started exactly three years ago, will soon be on track. Frequent meetings are taking place to clearly define the future 'legal vehicle' that will be adapted to this new structure and ensure its effectiveness. The project is currently operating within the framework of the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Parish Fabrique. One of the photos takes us back to its origin (visit of the Master of the Order to Cardinal Cyprien G  rald Lacroix), while the other shows us the current stage of discussions with all parties involved. By January 2026, the organization, the 'vehicle,' should be in good working order. Bishop Mgr. Jean Tailleux is very involved to insure the wish of the Cardinal will take shape.

Let us recall that this project, also entitled 'Espace Saint-Dominique,' was submitted on October 28, 2022, by the Master of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Fr. G  rald Timoner, to Cardinal Cyprien Lacroix, Archbishop of Quebec, as well as to Bishop Marc Pelchat. On this occasion, Cardinal Lacroix warmly

welcomed the initiative, noting that 'it is rare, in the current ecclesial context, to receive news that is so encouraging and full of hope.'

In his concluding letter to the canonical visit of our Dominican province, dated November 21, 2022, the Master of the Order reaffirmed the Order's full willingness to support this mission, in the service of the salvation of souls, society, and the Church. For the provincial prior, Brother Yves B  riault, "These words, which we receive as signs inspired by the Spirit, call us to approach this mission with faith, hope, and creativity." Supported by the Dominican Province of Canada, the project aims to make Saint-Dominique Church a vibrant space for spirituality, art, and culture, in dialogue with contemporary society. Conceived as an interface between the Church and the world, it is jointly supported by the Dominican friars of Quebec, the Christian community of Saint-Dominique Church, and the authorities of the Archdiocese of Quebec.



This project naturally fits within the continuum of pastoral activities already present at Saint-Dominique Church, such as Eucharistic celebrations, retreats, preaching, ministry of reconciliation, spiritual accompaniment, the celebration of weddings, funerals, and baptisms, youth catechesis, activities of the Dominican lay youth fraternity, choirs, among others. For the past three years, the Dominican friars of Quebec have greatly contributed to the realization of these activities. A close collaboration with the Saint-Baptiste Pastoral Unit is also being considered since both entities share the same territory. Initiatives have already been undertaken in this regard.

To support this dynamic, a 'sanctuary'-type model would provide the project with the flexibility and autonomy conducive to the emergence of innovative pastoral initiatives, while ensuring governance suited to its mission.



A center radiating faith, art, and culture'

We need you [the artists]. Our ministry needs your collaboration. For, as you know, our ministry is to preach and to make the world of the spirit, the invisible, the ineffable, and God accessible, understandable, and even moving. And in this endeavor, you are masters.' It is your profession, your mission; and your art is that of seizing the treasures of the spirit from the sky and clothing them in words, colors, shapes, accessibility." (Saint Paul VI addressing artists at the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council, 1965)

From its origins, the Catholic Church has been a hub of artistic creation: architecture, sculpture, painting, music, poetry, theater, cinema... It has always recognized and supported art as a language of faith, both a spiritual expression and a path to God.

Art constitutes a universal language, a meeting space between human aspirations and divine mystery. It expresses what men and women feel, hope for, and admire. It can not only lead to God but also open the mind to the Gospel. In this sense, art remains a powerful tool for catechesis and missionary dialogue.

The project aims to make Saint-Dominique Church a radiant Dominican center dedicated to the arts, music, culture, and spiritual life. "Espace Saint-Dominique" is intended to be both a place of renewal, education, and proclamation of the Gospel. The understanding of faith, at the heart of the Dominican tradition, will remain an essential component.

These centers are intended to be places of meditation and contemplation of the Christian mystery, of the unfathomable richness of the mystery of Christ in its human and cultural implications. (Cardinal Paul Poupard, October 8, 1993)

In its artistic dimension, the project seeks to develop sustainable partnerships with the cultural communities of Quebec and Canada. It aims to open new pathways capable of reaching a secular society through its values, concerns, and search for meaning. The artistic and cultural universe constitutes, in this regard, a privileged place for dialogue. Faced with contemporary challenges and increasing secularization, it becomes urgent for the Church to establish innovative mission centers, capable of engaging with current cultures and renewing its evangelical proclamation. This is the spirit that animates the Saint-Dominique Space. It should be noted that several lay Dominicans are already involved in this project, placed under the patronage of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary.

And you, mountains, praise the Lord !

*Queen of Peace's Monastery
celebrates at 25 year old !*

The nuns of the Queen of Peace Monastery, with their characteristic joy, celebrated on October 4th the 25th anniversary of the establishment of their monastery in British Columbia. From Rosemary Heights, through Fort Langley, stays at Helen House and Mystic Mountain Lodge, the nuns finally settled in Squamish, a majestic location overlooking the Garibaldi mountains. A glacier comes into view through the chapel window: the site was simply perfect!

The project was born from a call by the Master of the Order at the time, Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, and, gradually, nuns from various backgrounds came together to make this dream a reality. Sister Claire Ross, originally from Western Canada, wholeheartedly wished for such an establishment and worked toward it with unwavering hope. Sister Mary-Thomas, prioress of the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament in Michigan, also believed in the importance of this presence and contributed to it, as did Sister Mary Bernadette (Browne) from the Corpus Christi

Monastery in California. Throughout these 25 years, they were supported by friars Yves Bériault, who was with them all the way, Guy Rivard, and now Dieudonné Bigirimana. Friar Pierre Leblond has been serving as chaplain for several years.

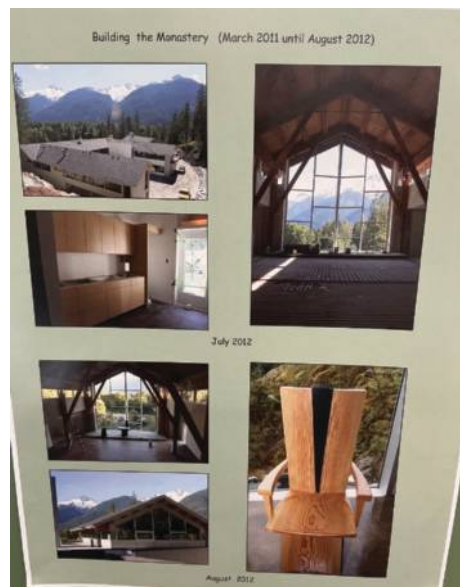
25 years later, the Squamish monastery is thriving. The nuns devote themselves to various creative activities in buildings designed to house these workshops. Soon, a new construction will accommodate people wishing to enjoy the peace that permeates this site.

Is there a place in the world that celebrates the beauty and grandeur of creation better? Is there a place where the rest of the heart is offered with more gentleness and persuasion? Is there a place more conducive to prayer? We must rejoice in this marvelous invention, this ingenuity of grace that has found its home with us, in our Canadian province. Something to lift our gaze!

Raymond Latour, O.P.



The Founders





The Nuns of the Queen of Peace Monastery wished to mark another important anniversary, that of the 100th anniversary of the nuns' establishment in Berthierville. Sister Julie Lasnier represented the community during the festivities on the 25th in Squamish.



Sister Claire Ross addresses the guests to congratulate Sister Julie and her community, which was established in Berthierville a hundred years ago. As for Sister Claire, she had long nurtured the dream of establishing a community of Dominican nuns in Western Canada, in British Columbia. The two communities are now merged into a single organization.



Sister Julie, with fr. Timothy Radcliffe.



Mother of Mercy



*Dominican family:
together, witnesses of hope
on the path of peace.*



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