



RÉSEAU

MARCH 2026

Volume 58, No 1

www.dominicains.ca/en

SOMMARY

A word from the Prior provincial	2
A word from the director	3
In our Network	4
Chronicles	9
• Vancouver 9	• Quebec 20
• Squamish 11	• Missionary Adorers 22
• Toronto 13	• Japan 24
• Ottawa 15	• Bujumbura 27
• Montreal 16	• Kigali 31
• Saint-Hyacinthe 19	• Ste Cecilia, Vancouver 33
The Fra Angelico Fraternity	35
OP LAITY	36
Visio divina : looking et listening	37
Welcome to the new provincial office!	38
Statement for Justice and Peace	40
The Hospital is my parish!	41
Le rosaire dans les apparitions mariales	43
Funeral Homily for Br. Steve Dumas	44



**PROVINCE
SAINT-DOMINIQUE
DU CANADA**

Editor : Fr. Raymond LATOUR, o.p.

Infography : Gabriel PROVOST

*Sculpture of Saint Dominic by A. PELTIÉ,
a Quebec artist from Saint-Jean-Port-Joli.*

A word from the Prior provincial

It's up to Him to do the rest.

Am I optimistic about the future of our province? Under the current circumstances, there seems to be little reason to be. And yet, the examples of Vancouver and Quebec City show a new vitality and unexpected initiatives since the 2022 chapter. The future may still hold some pleasant surprises for us.

So, am I optimistic about our future? That is not the question. Having the courage to face the future cannot be reduced to mere fleeting optimism: it is too fragile to allow us to remain firmly rooted in reality and to view the future with caution. Faith in the future of our province is of a different order: it is rooted in hope, that “little hope” of Charles Péguy that guides the worlds and brings with it faith and charity.

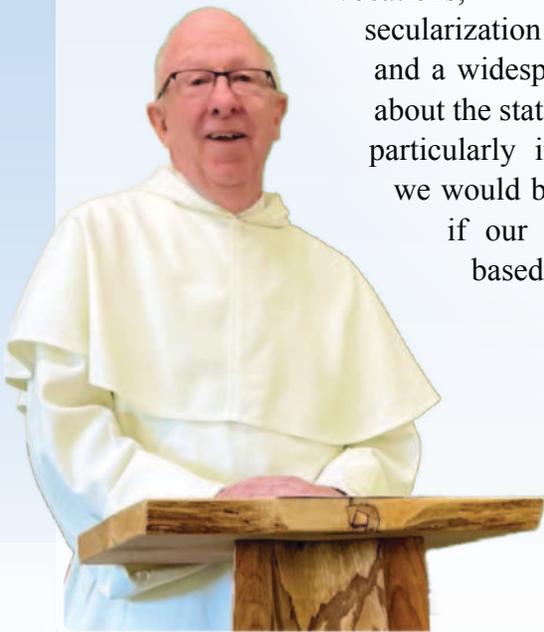
Looking clearly at our missionary horizon, I see both encouraging signs and serious areas of concern: aging, declining numbers, a scarcity of vocations, the rapid secularization of our society, and a widespread pessimism about the state of the Church, particularly in Quebec. But we would be very unhappy if our hope were not based on Christ and

his promises, He who sends us, empty-handed, in the footsteps of St. Dominic, with confidence. It is up to us to do everything in our power to carry out our mission; it is up to Him to do the rest.

It is therefore up to each of the brothers and sisters of our Province to do their part, each according to their abilities and responsibilities. First of all, through fidelity to prayer—the most fundamental commitment, regardless of our state of health—; then through fraternal service at the heart of the daily life of our communities, services rendered in the very name of Christ; and finally, through our missionary commitments, wherever we are in the country, commitments that bear witness both to our love of God and to our attachment to the Dominican charism in its proclamation of the Good News.

Where will the Lord lead us? No one knows. But as we wait for the Master—as the parable reminds us—it is up to us to make fruitful use of the talents entrusted to us, even if they are reduced to a single, modest unit. It is up to Him to do the rest.

Yves Bériault, o.p.



A word from the director

Taking the time

The Dominicans of Canada are preparing to celebrate their provincial chapter next July in Toronto.

This is a meeting held every four years that brings together delegates from the various Dominican communities across the country as well as from Rwanda, Burundi, and Japan. About twenty brothers will spend together a substantial two weeks in the middle of summer to determine the directions for the next term of the provincial council.

Nowadays, two weeks is a long time. Even longer, considering that discussions on major issues will have been prepared by commissions, which will submit their recommendations to the capitulars. It should be noted that laypeople and members of Dominican fraternities will participate in these commissions, a first.

At the end of May, beginning of June, all the brothers are invited to “les Assises provinciales”, a kind of fraternal forum whose reflections will also help enrich the perspectives. The chapter members will also receive reports from various 'officers' of the Province covering the last four years.

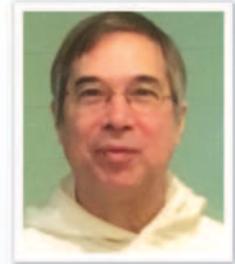
So much time spent deliberating! In a society where everything moves so quickly, there is something a bit anachronistic about allowing oneself such a span of time to take stock and

look ahead to a future that is difficult to predict.

Among the Dominicans, we have a somewhat special vocabulary. We talk about 'celebrating a chapter.' This might perhaps explain why one would want to prolong the celebrations! It is a way of saying that each member of the Dominican family, particularly the brothers, is invited to discover how their communal charism unfolds in a constantly changing world. How can our preaching – in a broad sense – be relevant? Where do our priorities lie? How can we invest increasingly limited energies and resources? How can we strengthen our communion? What does the future of our presence in different environments look like? So many subjects that we cannot take lightly and that require drawing on our collective memory to position ourselves in fidelity to our identity and the calls of the Order and the Church. Time is also needed for moments of prayer, to open ourselves to the breath of the Spirit, which could lead us on innovative paths.

What was read through the pages of the RÉSEAU will take on a new significance. To be continued!

Raymond Latour, o.p.



In our Network

Preaching



Brother Darren Dias was invited to preach for the occasion of the novena to Saint Joseph at the Oratory. The theme of the novena this year: "Saint Joseph and the Unexpected of God." Monsignor Valéry Vienneau, a former student of the Dominican College, will also give the preaching. Darren Dias put his knowledge and faith at the service of the university community in Toronto. Ordained a priest in 2006, he has been teaching at St. Michael's College since 2008. In 2022, he became the director of the Toronto School of Theology (TST) while continuing his teaching activities as a professor of systematic theology. His research and publications focus on interreligious dialogue and decoloniality. Darren Dias serves on several ecclesiastical committees, both nationally and internationally. Like his fellow Dominican brothers in Canada, he continues "the mission of Saint Dominic, preaching the word of God and building bridges towards unity and peace" (dominicains.ca) – On the occasion of the novena at the Oratory, he will offer the preaching from March 10 to 13.

Meeting of North American Provincial Priors

The North American provincial priors will meet in Montreal from April 6 to 10.

Appointments

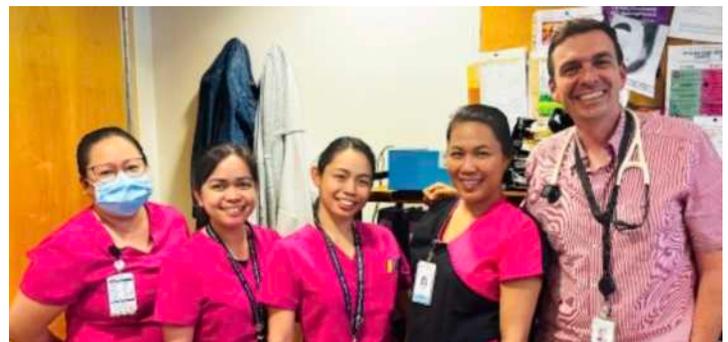
Friar Thomas de Gabory Le Taillandier, from the province of France and a member of the Saint-Albert-le-Grand convent in Montreal, has been appointed as co-director of the biomedical ethics department at The Bernardins research hub in France. The institution is well known for engaging in dialogue on various issues related to art, culture, and sciences.

This appointment will consist of organizing a conference on the theme: medicine, artificial intelligence, and ecology, which will take place on June 5th. The conference will address zero-carbon goals in relation to the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare: energy overconsumption and carbon footprint; how to consider AI in medicine; the role of ecology in ethical reflection.

With the co-director, he will also have to schedule a 2-year seminar consisting of 16 sessions for which themes and speakers will need to be found.

Another nomination for Br. Gabory : he has been appointed by McGill University as an assistant professor in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. He will continue his teaching work on palliative care and care ethics for students and residents at the palliative care unit of the Jewish General Hospital (Montreal) and gives lectures at the new French-speaking campus of McGill University, established in Gatineau five years ago.

He also collaborates with the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Ottawa, two sessions per year on the ethics of complex cases.



In our Network

Meeting of the Doctors (physicians) of the Order of Preachers

On January 17, 2026, a meeting of the doctors (physicians) of the Order of Preachers was held via videoconference. Brother Thomas de Gabory took part in it.



New address for the Provincial Administration

It was on Thursday, November 27, 2025, that the move of the Dominican Provincial Administration house in Canada took place. The provincial house is therefore leaving its former address at 2715 Chemin-de-la-Côte-Sainte-Catherine to settle at 4901 du Piedmont, Montreal, not far from Saint Joseph's Oratory. The offices are located on the second floor of the building that houses the provincial house of the religious of Holy Cross.

(postal code: H3V 1E3; tel : 514 341-2244)



Social justice pages

<https://dominicansistersconference.org/justice-peace/public-statements/>

[op.org](https://dominicansistersconference.org/)

The CDEVS becomes the CDEF

The Dominican Center for Ethics and Spiritual Life has changed its name and become the Dominican Center for Studies and Training (CDEF) in order to better reflect its areas of expertise in theology, exegesis, and philosophy. The CDEF now has four divisions: the Noël-Mailloux Chair in Health Care Ethics and Bioethics, the Gospel, Theology and Life Chair, the School of Philosophy, and the Dynamic Archives.



CDEF
Centre dominicain
d'études et de formation

“The Good News is for me”

Since Ash Wednesday, Brother Claude Noël, O.P., has been posting comments on the liturgy: “The Good News is for me” (The Good News is for me@ClaudeNoëlOPc). He wishes to offer material for meditation and also to provide reflection for people who are searching. You can follow this link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOTGggt1kfpXGHITg_Hqapw



In our Network

DELEGATES TO THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER IN TORONTO

July 12 to 24, 2026

CANADA

Br. Yves Bériault – Outgoing Provincial
Br. Guy Rivard – Prieur - Ottawa Convent
Br. Jacques Marcotte – Prieur – Quebec Convent
Br. Lamphone Phonevilay
Br. Martin Lavoie – Prieur – Montreal Convent
Br. Gustave Nsengiyumva
Br. Daniel Cadrin
Br. Raymond Latour
Br. Hervé Tremblay – Prieur - Toronto Convent
Br. Gilles Simard – Prieur - Vancouver Convent

Delegate College No. 1

Br. Dieudonné Bigirimana

Delegate College No. 2

Br. Gustave Ineza

Delegate College No. 3

Br. Jean-Marc Perreault

JAPAN

Br. Michel Giard (Vicar of the Conventual Prior)
Br. Kota Kanno

RWANDA & BURUNDI

Br. Liboire Kagabo – Provincial Vicar
Br. Désiré Bizimana (Prior – Kigali Convent)
Br. Symphorien Ntibagirirwa (Prior – Bujumbura Convent)

College Delegate No. 4

Br. Cyprien Ntibankundiye

College Delegate No. 5

Br. Bonaventure Kambazi

PRESIDENT FOR THE OPENING OF THE CHAPTER

Br. Hervé Tremblay, prieur – Prior of the Toronto Convent

MODERATOR

Br. Ghislain Paris, assisted by Br. José Apolinário Kahombo

SECRETARY OF THE CHAPTER

Br. Raymond Latour, assisted by Br. Gustave Nsengiyumva

SECRETARIAT

Patricia Gongot

In our Network

PRE-CHAPTER COMMISSIONS

FINANCES

1. André Descôteaux. (Chair)
2. Jean-Marc Perreault.
3. Sylvain Bossé.
4. Denis Rochon.
5. Renaldo Battista.
6. Yves Racicot.
7. Guy Rivard.

INTELLECTUAL LIFE

1. Hervé Tremblay (Chair)
2. Darren Dias
3. Thomas de Gabory
4. Ghislain Paris
5. François Pouliot
6. Sylvie Latreille
7. Dominique Laperle
8. Michael Attridge

MISSION

1. Dieudonné Bigirimana (Chair)
2. José Apolinário Kahombo
3. Gustave Nsengiyumva
4. Gustave Ineza
5. Lamphone Phonevilay
6. Antonio Miguel Estevão
7. Mathieu Vézina
8. Peace-Michael Mushimiyimana
9. Michel Grenier

VICARIATE COMMISSION

Members to be determined by the Provincial Vicar and his council.

Website

RÉSEAU invites you to discover the revamped website of the Canadian province. Among other things, you'll be able to access videos, and RÉSEAU's contact information will also be available there. Here is the link to this site, which you will benefit from visiting regularly... between issues of this newsletter.

<https://dominicains.ca>

Subscribe!

Dominican Canadians wish to increase their presence on social media.

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

communications@dominicains.ca

Necrology

+ Brother Jean-Baptiste Katsumi Harada, passed away in Tokyo on November 1st, 2025. He was 91 years old, with 63 years of religious life.

Brother Harada was born in Gojome-machi, a town in Akita Prefecture in northeastern Japan, on July 29, 1934. The Canadian brothers of the vicariate were very present in this region, having responsibility for the Diocese of Sendai. The young Katsumi Harada, after exploring with the Brothers of the Christian Schools, received the Dominican habit in 1961 and made his profession the following year. His solemn profession took place on May 22, 1969.



Always discreet and unobtrusive, he was recognized by all for his sense of service, particularly as a laundryman at the Shibuya convent since 1973. He was very consistent, always present at the offices and supporting the community in a thousand ways. He took care of the plants and flowers. He often helped in the kitchen.

He was the last of the cooperative brothers who had worked in Japan. His funeral was celebrated on November 15th at the Saint Dominic convent church in Shibuya.

.....

+ Brother Steve Dumas, in Quebec City, on December 16, 2025. He was 69 years old. He made his profession in August 1980. His funeral was celebrated at Saint-Dominique Church in Quebec City, on January 23, 2026. (See elsewhere in our pages the homily for the funeral).

+ Mrs. Jeannine Daoust, passed away on January 9, at the age of 89, in Salaberry-de-Valleyfield. She was employed at the Dominican University College of Ottawa (CUD) for many years, a very caring secretary for everyone.

.....

+ Mr. Gérard Poulin, deceased on January 22, 2026, at his home in St-Lin-Laurentides. He was 87 years old. He was the brother of our brother Jacques Poulin, to whom we offer the assurance of our prayer.

+ Mrs. Jeannine Payeur-Demers, who passed away on January 26, 2026, at the Hôtel-Dieu de Sherbrooke. She was 94 years old. She was the mother of our brother Bruno Demers, to whom we offer, as well as to the members of his family, our condolences. Her funeral was held at Saint-Roch Church, in Sherbrooke, on February 21.

To the rhythm of Dominican life

Vancouver moves to the rhythm of Dominican life, contemplative and active.

Father Gilles Simard—replacing Father Joseph D’Souza due to visa complications-- accompanied Saint Mary’s parishioners on a pilgrimage to Italy. Upon his return, Father Gilles was asked and accepted to become the administrator of Precious Blood Parish in Surrey BC, a small parish of approximately 800 registered parishioners and an elementary school with 230 children. Father Gilles found the people welcoming with whom he developed a good working relationship. The assignment will end June 30th, 2026. Father Gilles will participate in his first provincial chapter next July.

In the past three months, Father Gabriel De Chadavérian had a kidney cyst surgery with a very good one month recovery, but Father Gabriel is still struggling with high blood pressure. However, his blood pressure is stabilising. Despite the health setback, which Father Gabriel considers the gift of a cross from the Lord, he has resumed ministry since January 2026. Father Gabriel is delighted to be part of a formation community.

Father Dieudonné Bigirimana writes as a poet, "Between mountains and ocean, I found the novitiate in Vancouver!" The Westcoast landscape captures his experience as novice master: "the ocean opens up a horizon of possibilities, and the mountains sometimes hide the view." Fraternal life may be comparable to a steep climb; nevertheless, the enthusiasm of the Dominican friars-- their desire to walk together—offers the incentive to climb this mountain. Knowing that Jesus accompanies the community, Jesus directs the gaze to the horizon and creates the joy to continue the journey.

Father Mark Hoo makes his rounds by giving short teachings and Q&A’s to St. Mary’s School pupils, conveying God’s message from kindergarten to grade 7’s, this includes singing songs complete with clapping and hand gestures with kindergarten and grade 1s, to capturing the attention of the Grade 6’s and 7’s (before they get bored). These ministries extend to various parishes and schools in the Archdiocese of Vancouver, as well as to the Dominican Laity and CWL in the form of days of reflection, short retreats, talks, Q&A’s, and spiritual direction. Being part of a house of formation is an ongoing highlight for Father Mark.

The Dominican novices, Brother Jacob Heakes and Brother Angelo Antes gave excellent presentations to the Dominican community on the Dominican Friars, Girolamo Savonarola and Bartolome de las Casas, respectively. Their well-researched presentations were appreciated by the Brothers of the community.

Dominican Vocation Promotion (Vancouver/Western Canada):

From November to January, Fr. David Bellusci, OP, Dominican promoter for the Western region, visited Calgary (AB), Regina (SK), St. Boniface/ Winnipeg/ Brandon (MB), invited to give personal testimonies, talks to young adults on Dominican life, on religious discernment, chastity, as well as the issue of sexual addiction. Dominican discernment weekend held at the end of November coincided with Archbishop Smith’s dinner invitation on the Friday evening, and his first visit to the Dominican community. To his pleasant surprise, the Archbishop had dinner with seven Dominicans friars, two Dominican novices, and five young men visiting from Calgary and Saskatoon—

fourteen men in Vancouver's Dominican priory to welcome the Archbishop. The Austrey and Reid houses and the rectory were not sufficient to accommodate the five OP enquirers; in fact the postulant, Chris Ruest, who came out from Saskatoon, offered to stay at a Bed&Breakfast so his friend, Riley Morrissey, also from Saskatoon, could stay with the Dominicans at Austrey. For the discernment day on the Saturday, twelve young men visited the Priory of Saint Mary with two driving out six hours from Kelowna (BC) and the remaining five from Vancouver, joined for prayers, talks, and meals. Father Dieudonné gave a talk sharing his experiences as Novice Master with the enquirers, and Father Gabriel, as Conventual Lector, gave a detailed tour of the Austrey house library. One of the enquirers, Kevan Syalomsan, who regularly attends the Pier Giorgio Frassati Bible study, was completely

enthralled by the library. By electronic communication, Fr. José Kahombo also provided several contacts from different parts of western Canada which Fr. David follows up with video calls. Michael Ocenar, a postulant from Calgary, will be joining the Dominican community Sunday, March 1st. The next discernment day scheduled is a silent retreat at Queen of Peace monastery in April. Enquirers coming from out of town in April for the silent retreat and Dominican discernment, will remain with the Dominican friars over the weekend. With numerous enquirers already planning to stay with the Friars over the weekend, the present challenge for the Priory of Saint Mary is where to accommodate all the young men.

NB. The Vancouver submission has been written by Human Intelligence and has checked/removed all Artificial Intelligence. Vancouver editor.



Squamish chronicle

Sr. Marie-Étienne Moquin

Être signe d'espérance

After a week of community recollection and retreat just before Advent, the season began with a bang—literally! A generous friend of our community who runs a construction company generously offered to help us make one of our showers wheelchair accessible. After roughly a week of dust, pipes and tile, the new roll-in shower was ready for use. The current “primary user” is enjoying the increased ease and safety, as are the sister infirmarians.

The heavens delighted us with a snowy Christmas, and the gracious non-rainy weather lasted almost to the end of the Octave. To add to our joy, on Epiphany we celebrated the entrance of postulant Genevieve. Like the Magi, she came from “afar” (aka Ottawa), travelling over “field and fountain, moor and mountain, [through multiple blizzards]” to arrive just in time for the feast. Christmas concluded with a spontaneous carol singing at recreation, with each sister requesting her favourite songs. The end of the festal season also marked a significant milestone for our community: with three postulants, and the temporary visit of an aspirant, all 19 cells were fully occupied. No one is sleeping in broom closets yet, but we’ve begun to discuss how to create more space as the community continues to grow.

The beginning of February marked our community’s annual two weeks of “study sharing.” Each sister prepares a half-hour presentation on a subject she’s studied during the year, and then there is time for questions and discussions. This year, topics included Maimonides, Artificial Intelligence, Evagrius Ponticus, and cardiology. These weeks are a great mutual encouragement for ongoing formation and perseverance in study.

On Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11, Sr. Dominica Maria of the Lamb of God celebrated her first profession of vows for three years. The ceremony took place during a beautiful Mass offered by our chaplain, fr. Pierre Leblond. A small group of sister’s family and friends who live in Canada were able to join us for the occasion. Afterwards, we shared cake together, along with a traditional Vietnamese sweet called Bánh Phu Thê (Husband and Wife Cake) which is often served as part of formal engagements and weddings. It was a happy day, with much joy and laughter from all.

This little chronicle closes as it opened: with a new liturgical season, and construction. In the Gospel for the first Sunday of Lent, Matthew tells us that Jesus was “led by the Spirit into the ἔρημον (eremon),” a Greek



word that can mean wilderness, desert or deserted place. Meanwhile, in our little corner of the wilderness, the autumn rains had created a sinkhole in the original forestry bridge that connects the main monastery to our hydroelectricity project and emergency exit road. At the beginning of Lent, repairs began, and were completed more swiftly and easily than we could have imagined. A big “thank-you” to St. Joseph, who has always been so generous in helping us to meet the occasional challenges of actually dwelling in the wilderness!

We hope you have a peaceful Lent and happy Easter. We continue to hold you all in our prayers.



St-Thomas Priory, Toronto

Hervé Tremblay, prior

So much snow ! And plenty of activities.

Torontonians aren't used to a winter like this! Since December, it's been snowing heavily and freezing cold. The storm on Sunday, January 25th, was historic, with 60 cm of snow in a single day. Needless to say, the city was paralyzed for two or three days, unsure where to put all that snow. And since there hasn't been a thaw since, it's still there, piling up the streets and sidewalks.

This storm and its aftermath affected the annual celebrations of the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas. As is our custom, we held an open house on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 27th. Many sent their regrets due to the state of the streets and sidewalks, so fewer people than usual attended. However, many friends of the community still came and stayed for a long time to talk, pray, eat something, and have a drink.

The following day, Wednesday, January 28th, the Aquinas lecture took place. This year, Liz Smyth, Professor Emerita at the University of Toronto, gave a lecture entitled: Thomas Aquinas OP, Teresa Dease

IBVM & Delphine Fontbonne CSJ: Reflections on Education, Gender & Theology. Br. Darren, on behalf of DIT, moderated the session.

The provincial prior, Brother Yves Bériault, was present at these events. He took the opportunity to meet with the brothers and discuss with them the future of the Toronto community in preparation for the upcoming provincial chapter in July. He and Brother Hervé also visited the venue for the chapter, St. Augustine Seminary.

Since the provincial council asked the communities of the province to reflect on their future, a reflection to be presented at the chapter, the brothers of Toronto chose to hold a day of discussion and reflection. It took place on Saturday, February 14th (no relation to Valentine's Day!) at Sacred Heart Parish, with Mr. Michael O'Connor, a Dominican layman, as moderator.

But we need to go back a little, to the last Réseau, to highlight some events of the fall.



The Pierre Claverie Lay Fraternity of Toronto has been very active. It held its annual Advent potluck on December 11th. Later, on Saturday, January 31st, they had a retreat preached by Brother Hervé on the courage of the prophets in their preaching. That same day was the Day of Consecrated Persons in the Diocese of Toronto, celebrated at St. Paul's Basilica. Brothers Gustave Ineza and Mathieu Vézina represented the Dominicans.

We had the Dominican Laity Day, celebrated every year around the date of Dominican All Saints' Day. This year, it took place on Saturday, November 8th. All four fraternities were represented. Finally, we must mention the Cardinal's Dinner on November 5th. Brothers Hervé, Gustave, and Mathieu were there. There were several speeches, including those of the Premier of Ontario, Mr. Doug Ford, the Apostolic Nuncio, and, of course, Cardinal Leo.

At the Sacred Heart Church, the "Our Lady of Resilience" Garden was officially opened. Planted in 2024, it is a space for everyone. A cross-stitch embroidery by Kathy Richardson, which will be displayed in the rectory, conveys thanks to Prakash Lohale OP, Raymond Latour OP, and Suzanne Arlow.

Here are also some more specific events involving the brothers: Brother Hervé teaches a course at St.

Peter's Seminary in London and another at the Grand Séminaire de Montréal. He has recorded several programs for Radio-Galilée on women in the Bible. With the Provincial Prior, he traveled to Oakland from December 16th to 21st 2025, to discuss potential study locations for our brothers in formation. He will be with the Dominicans of St. Finsbar in Trinidad from February 21 to March 7 for Bible Week.

Brother Mathieu, vocation promoter for Toronto, participated in the Rise up of CCO (Christian Catholic Outreach) between Christmas and New Year's Day. He ran a kiosk there with the br. Lamphone. Earlier, he participated in Renew Toronto from November 21st to 23rd, an event for young adults.

Brother Gustave is actively involved in parish ministry, especially in preparing children in Catholic schools for their First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation. In addition, he officiates at funerals and celebrates regular Masses at Catholic schools and the Héritage Francophone retreat center. He continues to record (well in advance) Masses that will later be televised and watched by several hundred people.

Fr. Prakash went to Vancouver to give a course on Dominican spirituality to the novices, from January 24th to 31st, 2026.



Ottawa Convent chronicle

Fr. Guy Rivard

With or without church: ascent towards Easter

Hello to the entire Dominican family from the brothers in Ottawa. As they say, happy people have no story, so I am out of news to share with you. Life is beautiful, that's all. We just celebrated the decisive calling of our catechumens and our candidates for confirmation. The baptism of the catechumens will take place at Easter, and the confirmations at Pentecost. We are banned from the church for two weeks because the CECCE is preparing a presentation of the future multipurpose space that the church will be, intended for potential partners. They hope that in return for the use of the premises, a partner will contribute to the redevelopment costs. That's the big news from Ottawa!

To all, we wish a fruitful journey toward Easter and a memorable Triduum.



Mgr. Marcel Damphousse met with members of the Ottawa community on the occasion of the feast of Saint Thomas Aquinas. He presided over the mass and preached. Then, he had lunch with the brothers and visited the church to see what has become of the parish.

Convent Saint-Albert-le-Grand, Montreal

Fr. André Descôteaux

What did you do during the cold weather?

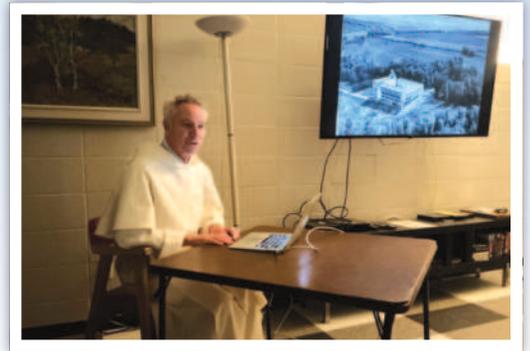
Even in Montreal, we are experiencing a cold winter that started too early, in November. However, the friars at Saint Albert did not hibernate. At the beginning of the month, they welcomed Brother Marc Chauveau from the Monastery of the Anunciation in Paris, a leading specialist in contemporary art. He was involved in the restoration of Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. He took the opportunity to give two lectures. The first was reserved for the community. Having lived for several years at the La Tourette convent near Lyon, a building designed by the famous architect Le Corbusier, he presented some of the exhibitions he had organized there. He allowed us to discover not only the beauty of the monastery, but above all the diversity and richness of contemporary art.

A few days later, in the conventual church, Brother Marc Chauveau gave a presentation on the place of contemporary art in the restored Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. After describing the architectural evolution of the cathedral, he focused on the restoration and description of certain elements of the liturgical furnishings designed and created by Guillaume Bardet (baptistery, altar, cathedra, ambo, seats). He also presented the new tapestries and stained glass windows that will be installed in Notre-Dame. It was a magnificent lecture attended by nearly 75 people.

November is an important month for the convent, as November 15 is its patron saint's day. The celebration itself took place on November 19. Several members of the Dominican family came to celebrate with the friars of Saint Albert.

A few days earlier, on November 14, the Dominican Institute of Toronto (DIT), in collaboration with the Dominicum Student Center, hosted a lecture by Father Gilles Routhier, professor emeritus at the Faculty of Theology of Laval University, entitled "Carrying on the Legacy of Albert the Great."

Also in November, the brothers, under the chairmanship of Brother Gustave Nsengiyumva, subprior, elected the socii of the conventual prior for the next provincial chapter. Brothers Gustave Nsengiyumva, Daniel Cadrin, and Raymond Latour were chosen.



On November 22, our brother Yvon reached the respectable age of 85.

Our prior, Brother Martin Lavoie, is very sensitive to the beauty of the surroundings. Thus, we have seen several reproductions of works produced by brothers appear on the walls of the convent. On the wall along the corridor leading to the common room, he has placed the Dominican figures that were once in the convent church of Saint-Jean-Baptiste. It is a beautiful sight.

On December 3, as part of ongoing formation, Brother Yves Bériault, provincial prior, gave an overview of the General Chapter held in Krakow in July and August 2025. In addition to describing the venue, he shared with us the issues and main decisions.

On December 7, our brother Estevao was installed as pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Laval. He had already been working there for several months. He is now the official pastor of his community. We wish him every success in his pastoral ministry.

On December 17, Brother André Descôteaux took part in the Christmas celebration at Externat Mont-Jésus-Marie, which this year marked its centenary at Saint Joseph's Oratory Basilica.

As always, the Christmas and New Year celebrations were very enjoyable and fraternal. Religious celebrations, traditional foods, exchange of greetings, festivities—everything was in place to joyfully celebrate the birth of our Savior. During the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, the “Rise Up” event took place in Montreal, a major Christian gathering on vocations in the Church. On this occasion, Brothers Mathieu from Toronto and Lamphone from Quebec City visited the convent, as did two Dominican sisters from the Saint Cecilia community in Vancouver.

Unfortunately, due to the harsh winter, several brothers fell ill, with some developing pneumonia. All are now in good health.

On the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, January 28, Mrs. Sylvie Latreille and Mr. Renaldo Batista made their solemn profession in the Order as members of the Albert-le-Grand lay fraternity. They are the first to take this step in their fraternity. A dinner followed with a few guests.

On February 13, Brother Thomas de Gaboury left us for a stay in Madagascar, where he gives a series of courses each year.

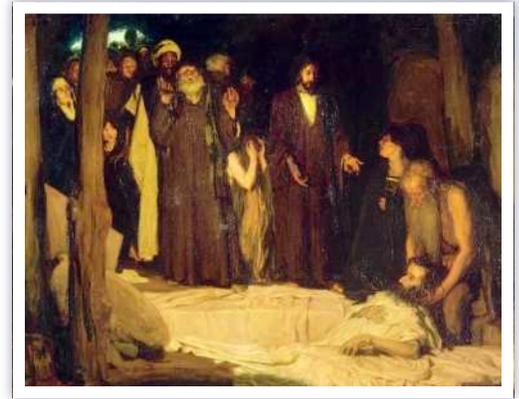


On February 15, Cédum celebrated its traditional Mass of Nations. It marked the beginning of the Centre's 40th anniversary celebrations. It was presided over by a friend of the Centre, Mgr. Alain Faubert, Bishop of Valleyfield.



On Ash Wednesday, at the beginning of Lent, the brothers were happy to welcome Mr. Juan Daniel Alvarez Becerra as a postulant. Juan is a linguistics student at McGill University. He comes from the South Shore of Montreal. He will be with us for a period of three months. As for our other postulant, Mr. Dieuvil Océ, after a three-month stay, he left us around Christmas time.

On February 21, several brothers from the monastery gathered around Brother Bruno Demers for his mother's funeral, which took place in Roch Forest.



On February 23, Brother Daniel Cadrin, conventual lector, presented several representations of the resurrection of Lazarus, including this painting by African-American artist Harry Tanner (1896).

Dating back to Christian antiquity, he allowed us to discover some very beautiful and sometimes surprising representations of this sign so important in the Gospel of John.



During the last week of February, the provincial prior undertook the canonical visit of the convent. On Wednesday, February 25, he delivered his conclusions. The brothers living at the Basile-Moreau residence were present, as Brother Yves had also met with them. He said he was pleased with the visit. He noted that the brothers living at Basile-Moreau formed a supportive community where everyone cared for one another. He also noted that such a spirit of mutual aid existed at Saint-Albert.

The brothers are satisfied with their new place of residence. He congratulated the brothers for their effort in celebrating the office with dignity. He invited the community to continue its apostolic commitment. The financial situation of the community will have to lead them to reflect on it. After this meeting, we celebrated Vespers and then gathered in the refectory for a festive meal where the birthdays of the month were highlighted.



Even in winter, however harsh, there is life at Saint-Albert!

House of the Most Holy Rosary

Fr. Jean-Jacques Robillard

Old age and the crazy love of God

Again, we are entering Lent, on our way to Easter. What will this season of fasting, sharing and praying bring us? No doubt the first signs of spring's return with its joyful clarity and brightness. The beginning of nature's awakening, as it sheds its white cloak and dons its green garments, revealing to us that it was only dormant.

Our Lenten journey will lead us to the radiant joy of Easter, when nature will burst forth before our eyes with the wonders of its awakening and renewal.

Three events have marked the life of our little community since the last RÉSEAU.

On December 27, we celebrated in private the 101st birthday of Brother Jourdain Lavoie, who continues to walk slowly but surely along the path of life.

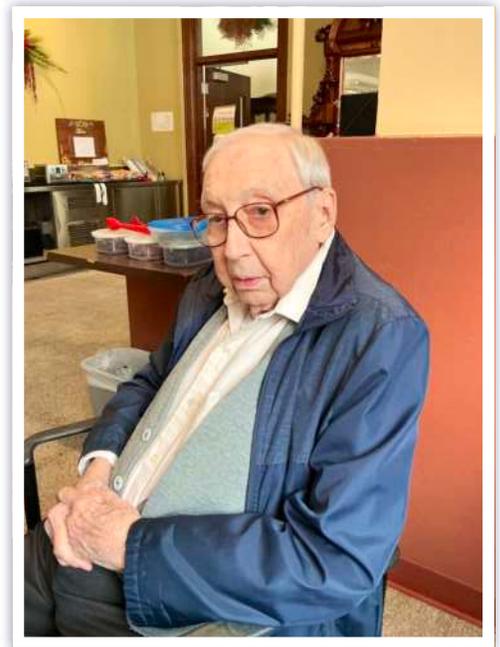
A few days later, on January 3, we had the joy of welcoming Brother Yves Bériault and Brother Raymond Latour, who came to offer their best wishes to Brother Jourdain Lavoie and their best wishes for the New Year that had just begun.

From January 28 to 29, we held the annual retreat for the priests of the Seminary. This year, Father Jacques Van Vliet, a Cistercian from Rougemont, opened our minds to the arcane of “God's Crazy Love.” It was truly a time of renewal that was appreciated by all.

In closing, all the Brothers join me in wishing you all a fruitful Lent and a “Happy Easter.”



From left to right, the brothers Robert Francoeur, Jean-Jacques Robillard, Jean Doure and Yves Bériault.



Fr. Jourdain Lavoie

Convent Saint-Dominique, Quebec

Fr. Jacques Marcotte

My country is (always) winter!

What can I write to you from our Priory in Quebec City? Except that the winter of 2026 has been long and cold, as it has been everywhere else in the eastern part of the country? Here, it has been even more exhausting, given the health of the brothers and their many apostolic commitments. The cold season, without excess or storms, stretches out for us in languor, in calls for patience and perseverance. As a result of our small numbers, we must also speak of fragility and the need for new resources.

The project of our pastoral insertion into St. Dominic's Church is experiencing setbacks and slowdowns. This project is proving difficult to manage on the part of the Diocese and the administrators of the Fabrique St-Jean-Baptiste. It must be understood that our position is becoming uncomfortable. The fact is that the return movement we are initiating goes somewhat against what followed our departure from St. Dominic's in 2012, which was already apparent in the early 2000s. After the euphoria of new beginnings in 2022, there was hesitation and certain complications.

In these circumstances, we must admire the patience and perseverance of brothers François, Michel, and Lamphone, who have been appointed to steer our return there. Their position requires a great deal of humility and generosity, given the delay in negotiations and the constant postponement of deadlines.

On the other hand, church attendance is definitely on the rise. The composition of our Sunday assemblies is growing and diversifying. Enthusiasm is increasing among many. Projects are being put forward. We have good collaborators with us in music, liturgical singing, the arts, and animation, etc.

Let us mention the success of the Dawn Masses on Mondays during Advent. The number of participants continues to grow. I believe we would run out of space in the church if Advent were to last a few more weeks!

We should also mention the Sacred Art Exhibition organized with the help of Mr. Pierre Lussier, an artist from Quebec City. The event took place at the back of Saint-Dominique Church during the last two weeks of December. Congratulations to the team who, with Brother François, carried out this beautiful and inspiring project!

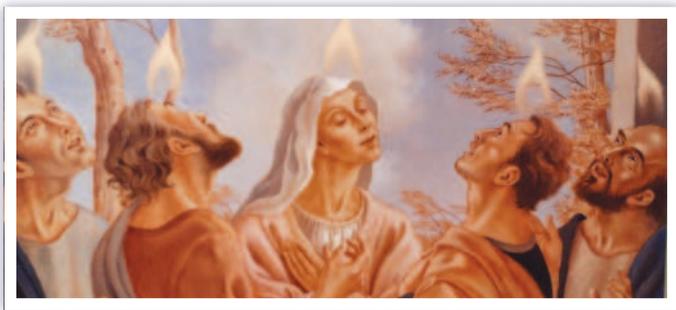


Another exhibition, this time on the testimony of the young Italian saint Carlo Acutis on Eucharistic miracles, organized by Louise Normandeau, was also well received at Saint-Dominique in early fall.

Finally, we were saddened by the death of Brother Steve Dumas, which occurred in Quebec City in mid-December. The suddenness of his death took us all by surprise in the Province. Given our proximity to Brother Steve's place of residence, it fell to us to take care of him in carrying out his last wishes. Brother Raymond Latour, who presided over the funeral, helped us greatly in making the necessary arrangements under the circumstances. Brother Steve Dumas' funeral was held on January 23 at St. Dominique Church. His ashes will be interred later this

spring in our cemetery in St. Hyacinthe. Everything went very well and was very dignified. Our contact with the brother's family and friends moved us and encouraged us greatly.

Otherwise, our days have passed without any major upheavals, as we are busy holding down the fort. Our days are planned in advance and filled with various tasks, appointments, meetings, personal work, prayers, and household chores. Such is life at St. Dominic's Convent in Quebec City, in the harmony of our fraternal relationships, which we strive to keep simple and joyful, sincere and peaceful, marked by gentleness and mercy, in the spirit of the Beatitudes.



Chronicle of Missionary Adorers

Sr. Yvette Blouin

A contagious faith

Brothers and sisters in Saint Dominic, hello!

I am delighted to visit you once again because, in a way, writing to you takes me on a journey! Although winter is still firmly established here, pastoral and community activities are far from frozen and continue to flourish.

In my last report, I shared with you that a priest had given us 160 nativity scenes. We kept 6 or 7 of them, which are very beautiful, to use in our common areas. Our sister Jeanne d'Arc was in charge of the sale. The result was truly impressive. However, her priority was to make it clear that the nativity scene evokes a great mystery to be celebrated, especially when shared with young children at the foot of the Christmas tree. When God becomes small, the humans who welcome him are bathed in his light and filled with joy.

During the week, at daily Mass, we welcome several people from different African countries. Coming in the morning when it is minus 20 degrees, with the wind blowing, to celebrate the Eucharist in our convent, proves how deeply rooted their Eucharistic faith is. Some mornings there are ten or even twelve of them, in addition to our seven or eight regulars, including two young Quebecois brothers aged around 12 and 13. They always give each other the kiss of peace, like monks. We keep them in our prayers, thinking that at their age, many of us had already received a calling. We are happy to live, in miniature, this phrase from Revelation: I saw people of every races, languages, peoples, and nations gather to celebrate the Eucharist of the Lord, that perfect adoration which glorifies our great Triune God. We keep in our hearts the memory that the Canadian Dominican province is present in the east and west of the country, in Africa and Japan, and that each convent

has its challenges. But does not the Spirit of the Lord fill the universe so that the whole earth burns with his fire!

On Tuesday, January 20, our sister H el ene, who is in Peru, received a visit from her brother. We rejoiced with her at this wonderful reunion. Peruvian society is in political turmoil, tensions are running high, and tourist visits are more risky, so they will only visit Lima and the surrounding area of Chaclacayo.

On Sunday, January 25, those who walk with us on a monthly basis came to spend the afternoon at our convent to deepen our bond with this mysterious Jesus who gives us his life on the evening of the Last Supper. With the help of a PowerPoint presentation entitled From Yesterday to Today, from Mother Julienne du Rosaire to the DMA Family, we remembered the moment of the Foundation, the growth of the community, and the lay people who, over time, have joined our tree. It is thanks to the combined talents of Sister Julienne and Sister Marlaine that we have seen 80 years of history unfold. There were team discussions, and during the snack break, some games of skill were greatly appreciated. Then we had evening prayer and shared a friendship dinner together. When these people come to recharge their batteries with us, they also inspire us to deepen and live our Dominican vocation, which is as much missionary as it is contemplative.

On January 30, Sister Judith Giroux was supposed to share with us her experience of the Jubilee of Consecrated Life, which took place in Rome last fall. But we had an outbreak of gastroenteritis. The sisters who fell ill were confined to their rooms, and the convent was closed to the public from February 3 to 8.



On February 1, six sisters participated in the diocesan celebration of Consecrated Life at Montmartre Canadien. Our sister Nathalie Roberge gave the talk with luminous conviction! Its title: *Between museum and eternity, the relevance of consecrated life today*. During dinner, several people came to express their appreciation to her. The gathering of about 150 people consisted mainly of sisters from many religious communities, but also included representatives from male communities, secular institutes, societies of apostolic life, and even the order of consecrated widows. The 2 p.m. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Juan Carlos Londoño, who is responsible for consecrated life in our diocese, with a dozen concelebrants. Our sister Isabelle, who was part of the organizing committee, was very pleased with the spiritual success of the day. A dozen sisters had registered, but only half were able to attend because of the outbreak in our convent.

On Sunday, February 8, we wanted to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the religious profession of four of us. But this jubilee has been postponed until March 1, given our situation, especially since those in charge and those celebrating their jubilee have been affected by the virus.

But during the evening recreation, we were finally all together to share news without prolonging the

meeting. Time will help heal and strengthen the sisters' health. Only three have been spared. This means that in winter, germs are very active.

On Tuesday the 10th, the Eucharistic Families gathered for their monthly meeting, which always begins with a time of adoration.

The next day, it was the turn of the DMA Fraternity, and on Thursday evening, February 12, we welcomed our friends from the Eucharistic Fraternity for adoration and the Eucharist, celebrated by Father Luc Paquet, moderator of our missionary pastoral unit. People were happy to be able to return to our walls to celebrate with us.

And on Friday, February 13, we held our community meeting to help us enter into Lent. We reflected on a text, the last lines of which I will share with you, taken from *Vie Liturgique*: Baptism is a journey of faith for all the faithful, a return to the sources of their own baptism, a favorable time to revisit the grace received and to rekindle their personal response to Christ's call.

May you have a good Lenten journey, brothers and sisters in St. Dominic, that Father who loved to preach Lent! And remember: *fait can be contagious* !



Chronicle of the mission to Japan

Fr. Kôta Kanno, with fr. Michel Giard

The violins of autumn

After the brief summer break, autumn saw the brothers in Japan return to their respective occupations. At Shibuya Convent, daily life was accompanied by the inconvenience caused by numerous renovation works, necessitated by buildings that are now approaching seventy years old. All this noise was certainly frustrating, but I admired the patience of the brothers, who all made the best of a bad situation. At the same time, I felt a certain kinship with the brothers of the Montreal and Ottawa Convents, who went through the same thing not so long ago. Healthy pragmatism and humble renewal...

In the fall, moreover, an event of profound sadness occurred for the brothers in Japan, leaving a great void at the Shibuya Convent: the unexpected death of Brother Jean-Baptiste Katsumi HARADA (see photo no. 1, taken in 2025 during the meal after the conventual chapter). He was already 91 years old and had been a cooperator brother for 63 years, but he was still in good health. He died of a heart attack on Saturday, November 1, the Solemnity of All Saints. What an appropriate day, we said to ourselves, for a brother who was so unassuming but so dedicated until the end, and we bear witness to this, “to the common life... to the profession of the evangelical counsels... to the celebration of the liturgy and prayer... and to regular observance,” to quote the words of our Fundamental Constitution.

Brother Katsumi HARADA would certainly not have liked such a canonization process. He had an even temperament and was very cheerful, but always discreet. He was diligent and efficient at work, but never showed off. During chapters, he occasionally spoke on matters relating to his responsibilities or community life, but without lengthy explanations and



as if somewhat compelled to do so. His judgments were very judicious and got to the heart of the issues.

As a cooperator brother, Brother Katsumi HARADA was also familiar with the history of the Convent and the parish, which he loved very much and to which he devoted all his time. He was also well informed about life and developments in our Shibuya neighborhood. Everyone recognized his dedication and expertise. Furthermore, Brother HARADA took great pride in his native region of Akita, in the northeast of the main island of Japan, and he willingly shared his memories of the past. I am convinced that Brother Jean-Baptiste Katsumi HARADA is now watching over us from heaven, together with Saint Dominic and our Dominican brothers.

At the end of December, thanks to a publication by Brother Dominique Akio Yoneda of our Kyoto branch house (see photos no. 2), we had the opportunity to remember another of our brothers from Japan who is now with the Lord: Brother Augustine Koichi TAKESHIMA, who died unexpectedly in April 2000 at the age of 69, after 47 years of religious profession. It is a collection of articles entitled “The Legacy of saint Dominic” (see photos no. 3), which brings together texts by the late Father TAKESHIMA. It deals with saint Dominic himself, but also and above all, hence the title of the collection, with the mark that Dominic left on history through the foundation of the Order, his unique spirituality, and through several of its eminent members, including saint Thomas Aquinas and saint Catherine of Siena.



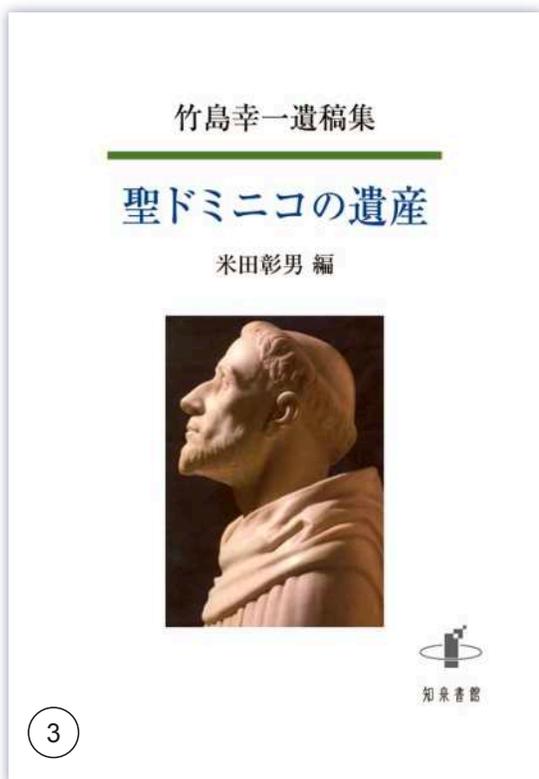
Brother TAKESHIMA, originally from the Vicariate of the Province of the Holy Rosary, was assigned to our Saint Thomas-Aquinas House in Kyoto (now a branch house of the extraterritorial convent in Japan), where he resided until the end. There he worked alongside Brother Katsumi HARADA, who was assigned

there for several years. He first taught at Aiko High School in Matsuyama, run by the province of the Holy Rosary, which Brother YONEDA attended as a student and where he made a strong impression. Later, in addition to being an assistant at our Saint-Thomas Aquinas Institute in Kyoto, he taught religion in several places, including Notre-Dame Women's College in Kyoto and Saint-Catherine University, where he became rector in 1994. At the same time, he also preached and gave many lectures on saint Dominic and saint Thomas. The collection is a sort of anthology by Brother YONEDA, who had known him since high school, a book summarizing what the late Father TAKESHIMA was passionate about communicating during his ministry.

For the brothers in Japan, this is a heartwarming book that will certainly be an opportunity to renew our knowledge of Dominican life. It is easy to imagine the late Brother Katsumi HARADA, who has just been reunited with God, and the late Brother Koichi TAKESHIMA sharing their memories as they look down from heaven at the newly published collection.

In addition, in early September, Brother Akio Yoneda also sparked considerable interest in the Gospel in Japan with his participation in the program “The Hour of Religions” on the national radio station NHK (see photo no. 4). During a 30-minute conversation with the program host, Brother YONEDA, with his characteristic quiet strength, emphasized a little-discussed aspect of the Gospel stories: Jesus' laughter. This is a theme he had already developed a few years ago in a book entitled “Jesus Laughed Four Times.” What I remember from the program is the great simplicity with which Brother YONEDA managed to explain the biblical analysis that led him to his conclusion. Without dwelling on it too much, he also succeeded, I believe, in linking the question of the historical Jesus with the figures of Jesus as Japanese writers have approached them in modern literature. In short, I would say that, thanks to this radio program, *Deus humanissimus* a term adopted by Edward Schillebeeckx, took a new meaning.

It should be mentioned here that, among his research on Japanese culture, Brother Yoneda took a particular interest in one of the most popular characters in Japanese cinema: Tora-san (literally “Mr. Tiger,”



according to the literal transcription of his name). He published “Tora-san and Jesus” in 2012, a first edition so popular that it was revised and expanded in 2023. The character appears in a television series of fifty Japanese films released between 1969 and 2019 entitled “Otoko wa tsurāi yo (It’s Hard Being a Man)ō. It entered the Guinness Book of Records as the most prolific film series. It recounts the tragicomic misadventures of Torajirō KURUMA, known as Tora san, a sensitive man who is unlucky in love and has to deal with various economic crises, family problems, and other misfortunes. Atsumi KIYOSHI plays the main character in all the films and has become, in a way, the embodiment of the role. With the spread of streaming, you may have already seen the poster (see photo no. 5). Just in case, here is the link to the Wikipedia page dedicated to the series: [It’s Tough Being a Man — Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It's_Tough_Being_a_Man).

Finally, on Sunday, January 11, after the Christmas and New Year celebrations at the convent parish, we celebrated the coming of age of two members of the community with the traditional “Sēijin`shiki” (or Coming of Age Ceremony). This is essentially a blessing, preceded in the Catholic Church ritual by a renewal of the profession of faith. In the photo (see no. 6), we see the two young adults

surrounded by the two parish vicars, Brother WIDOMSKI (right), Brother SATO (left), and the acolytes. Usually celebrated around the second Monday in January, a public holiday in Japan, the “Sēijin`shiki” rite is very popular with young people who reach adulthood, i.e., the age of twenty according to the old custom, and who are now welcomed as such into society. The age of majority in Japan has more recently been lowered to eighteen, but in general, young people wait until they are 20 to solemnly mark the transition. “You’re not 20 every day,” as the song nostalgically proclaims.

In closing, attentive readers will have noticed that the name of Brother Michel Giard reappears in the title of this column. In fact, he has always assisted me in my writing. He does not simply correct my French text but, when he deems it necessary and with my approval, he further clarifies the meaning or occasionally adds certain passages for clarity, to help readers situate themselves both geographically and culturally within contemporary Japan. Brother Michel did not want his name to be mentioned, but after discussing it with him, we agreed that his contribution should be recognized as such. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him and I will continue to write this column “in concert” with him.



Saint-Thomas-Aquinas, Bujumbura

Fr. Edouard Nijimbere

Floodes with joy !

The last three months of 2025 and the beginning of 2026 were full of events at the Saint Thomas Aquinas Convent of Bujumbura. Among these events, the first is certainly the beginning of the construction of the Studium, as the first phase of the University of Rwanda and Burundi. Starting with a small fund of 50,000 CAN\$, we dared to take a first plunge into this immense project on which the very future of the Vicariate—and perhaps of the future vice-province—depends.

We are counting on the generosity of God for the next stages of construction.

The second important event is the fraternal visit of our provincial prior, Yves Bériault, from November 22 to 26. On this occasion, Brother Yves visited the Rweza monastic sisters and their construction of the hospitality building, as well as the future site in Gitega that the brothers from Bujumbura would like to purchase. He took advantage of his stay in Bujumbura to assess the progress of the Studium construction in Kanyosha. Thirdly, from January 7 to 16, 2026, the Master of the Order, Brother Gérard Francis TIMONER III, accompanied by the Socius for Africa and Madagascar, Brother Roger GAISE, OP, and the Socius for Southern Europe and Canada, Brother Pavel SYSSOEV, OP, carried out a canonical visit in our vicariate. He visited our community from January 11 to 16, 2026. During this time, he met with the brothers; members of the Dominican laity and Dominican youth. He visited our community from January 11 to 16, 2026. He also visited the Monastic sisters in Rweza, as well as the brothers' projects in Bujumbura! During his stay, he met with the authorities of the universal and local Church, notably, the Apostolic Nuncio to Burundi, Mgr Dieudonné Datonou, the Archbishop of Bujumbura, Mgr. Gervais Banshimiyubusa, as well as our Brother Mgr. Emmanuel NTAJARUTIMANA, Bishop of the Diocese of Bubanza.



During the canonical visit, the visitors were able to meet with the faithful of the French-speaking and English-speaking communities through the Eucharistic celebration. Thus, the socius of the Master of the Order for Africa and Madagascar, Brother Roger GAISE, OP, presided over the Mass in French for the French-speaking community of the Saint Thomas Aquinas convent on the very day of their arrival in Bujumbura on January 11, 2026.



On Sunday, January 18, 2026, in the Dominican chapel in Kinanira, Brother Pavel SYSSOEV, OP presided over the 10:00 AM Mass for the English-speaking community.



The faithful of both communities welcomed the visit of the Master of the Order and these celebrations as moments of grace and communion with the Order of Preachers at the universal level.



Photo with the Apostolic Nuncio



With the archbishop, Mgr Gervais Banshimiyubusa



With the nun sisters in Rweza



With members of Dominican youth

Brother Liboire KAGABO, OP went to Kigali to receive the award recognizing strategic impact in community development and excellence, which was bestowed to him on November 5, 2025, at the M Hotel in Kigali on behalf of the University of Mwaro. Our congratulations to Brother Liboire Kagabo and the University of Mwaro.

On November 4, 2025, Brother Symphorien NTIBAGIRIRWA, OP traveled to Mauritius to participate in the annual conference of the African Business Ethics Network (RAEAF), in English Business Ethics Network in Africa (BEN), held at Middlesex University, in Port Louis. He gave a lecture on the Ethical Responsibility of Philosophy in the face of the challenge of Artificial Intelligence. And on November 18, 2025, he also gave a lecture on the decolonization of the environment and its ethical implications in Burundi at Saint Gallen University, in Switzerland. At the invitation of the African Union, Brother Symphorien also participated in the 9th Pan-African Congress held in Lomé, Togo from December 8-12, 2025. He gave a lecture on African education and the decolonization of African knowledge from the perspective of Ubuntu.

On February 7, 2026, in the premises of the Saint Thomas Aquinas Convent in Bujumbura, the Brothers, the Dominican laity, the Dominican youth, the Saint Dominic choir, the Saint Thomas Aquinas choir, the pastoral staff, and the committees of the Christian communities who pray in the Dominican chapels (the French-speaking community and the English-speaking community) met at the Saint Thomas Aquinas Convent, located in Rohero, Bujumbura, to wish each other the best wishes for the year 2026 and to celebrate the patronal feast of Saint Thomas Aquinas (which normally takes place on January 28). These ceremonies began with the Eucharistic celebration and concluded with fraternal sharing.

Joy flooded the entire community present, everyone happy to be reunited together at the Saint Thomas Aquinas Convent in Bujumbura, as a unifying nucleus.

On the Feast of All Saints, November 1, 2025, the nucleus of the Dominican youth, IDYM, in Burundi, was born under the jackfruit tree, in Kinanira, Bujumbura, at the Dominican Chapel (Anglophone Community). The members of this nucleus decided to hold their first meeting, their very first gathering. They met for the second time on November 30 to choose a



Fr. Symphorien with members of the African and Pan-African Education Commission





patron saint. They chose St. Pier Giorgio Frassati. They are proud to say: “We are young people drawn to the Dominican vocation, ready to proclaim the Gospel through the spirituality and charism of the Order of Preachers; motivated by prayer, study, and fraternal life in the common and ongoing mission of preaching, as laypeople who bring the Spirit of Christ to different realities and contexts” (Cf. Statuts IDYM-MJDI 2017, 1.1).

Happy events... but also a less happy event. On October 7, 2025, a neurologist revealed that Brother Deo Banzirumuhito suffered a stroke, which is believed to be the cause of his cognitive disorders. The doctor prescribed a treatment that includes three physiotherapy sessions per week. After 20 sessions, Brother Deo's progress is visible. He is recovering little by little. We give thanks to God who gives life, existence, and being!



Saint-Dominic Priory, Kigali

Fr. Sixbert Hategekimana, O.P.

A very busy période

Since the last issue of Réseau No. 57 in October 2025, life has continued at the Kigali Convent: Eucharistic celebrations, formation at the novitiate and internovitiate, catechesis, other apostolates and movements of the brothers.

On November 3, Brother Nicolas Burles from the Province of France arrived at the Kigali Convent for a stay of a few days. His visit took place in the perspective of exploring possibilities for collaboration between the Convent and Dom&Go, the international volunteer service of the Dominican brothers of the Province of France. This volunteering consists of sending young volunteers to Dominican communities abroad, and welcoming foreign volunteers into Dominican communities in France. During his stay, he also met with the Sisters of the Anunciata and the Missionary Dominican Sisters of Africa (DMA) for the same purpose.

On November 29, Brother Michel-Ange Koffi, Ivorian, arrived in Rwanda from the Saint-Augustin Dominican Province in West Africa. He came as part of the collaboration between the Saint-Augustin Province and the Vicariate of Rwanda and Burundi to support the apostolates of the Kigali Convent.

Brother Liboire Kagabo, Provincial Vicar, made a fraternal visit to the Saint-Dominique Convent from November 4 to 10, 2025. From November 15 to 22, the Provincial Prior, Brother Yves Bériault, stayed at the Convent for a fraternal visit. During his stay, he participated in the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Saint-Albert the Great Community in Nyagatare.

Another event to note: a meeting of the Vicariate Council under the presidency of the Provincial Prior took place at the Saint-Dominique Convent, November 18 and 19, 2025.

Brother Sarathiel Nzabonimpaye, who was in his sixth year of religious profession, requested to stop his Dominican life experience for personal reasons. He returned to his family on December 10, 2025. After six months of catechetical training, 40 young people received the sacrament of first communion and 10 children were baptized on Saturday, December 27, 2025.

Thanks to the generosity of two faithful who attend the celebrations at the convent chapel, the interior floor tiling of the chapel was renovated. The old tiling dated back to the construction of the convent in 1992. The work took 5 days, from December 15 to 20, 2025.



First Communion



Baptism



*Chapel capacity limited
to accommodate participants
at Mass*

From January 7 to 11, 2026, the Master of the Order, Brother Gerard Francisco TIMONER III, accompanied by Brothers Pavel SYSSOEV, Socius for Europe and Canada, and Roger GAÏSE, Socius for Africa and Madagascar, made his first canonical visit to the Kigali Convent and the Saint Albert the Great House in Nyagatare. On the evening of January 9, the canonical visitors met the Dominican family in Rwanda. The latter was well represented: the friars, the Missionary Dominican Sisters of Africa, the Sisters of the Anunciata, and the laity. The evening was enhanced by the address of the Master of the Order, who shared news of the Order worldwide, and the Socius for Africa and Madagascar spoke about the Dominican Family in Africa. On Wednesday, January 13, 2026, Brothers Désiré Bizimana, Cyprien Ntibankundiye, and Sixbert Hategekimana traveled to Burundi for meetings with the canonical visitors, which took place on January 14 and 15, 2026.



Visitors and Community Members



Fr. Pavel translates the MO's speech



*Socii :
Sharing news*



*Dominican Laity
Saint Rose of Lima/Kigali*



*Visit of the MO to the Apostolic
Nuncio in Rwanda (Two
Compatriots and Schoolmates)*



The Dominican Family in Rwanda



*Le Maître de l'Ordre et
le Vicaire Provincial
Encouragent la Famille
Dominicaine au
Rwanda*



*End of the Canonical Visit to the
Kigali Convent (Photo after
morning mass)*

St-Cecilia sisters (Vancouver)

To get to know the Sisters of St-Cecilia

In 2011 the Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A. began serving in the Archdiocese of Vancouver, British Columbia at the request of Archbishop J. Michael Miller. For their first fifteen years in Canada, the Dominican Sisters rented houses transformed into convents. Each house had a small chapel with the Blessed Sacrament where the sisters would gather for prayer. After this period of settling and re-settling into temporary solutions with kind and patient landlords, the sisters are especially grateful for their beautiful new convent dedicated to Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati, a favourite of Archbishop Miller.

The new convent property is adjacent to the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption in Port Coquitlam. The

sisters attend Mass at the parish and Sister Mary Bethany and Sister Rose Catherine teach at this parish elementary school, while Sister Mary Martha and Sister Delia Grace teach at nearby Archbishop Carney Regional Secondary School.

On September 7th, the date of Saint Pier Giorgio's canonization, Our Lady of the Assumption Parish hosted their annual parish picnic, and the sisters welcomed over 1,000 friends from around the Archdiocese to see their new convent and to learn about Saint Dominic, Saint Cecilia, and life as a religious sister. Several times during this open house, the sisters, in honor of Saint Cecilia their patroness, sang the Lord's praises in their beautiful new chapel. They also provided guided tours for their many visitors.



On October 2, Frassati Chapel was officially dedicated by Archbishop Richard Smith, newly installed for the Archdiocese of Vancouver in May 2025. The small size of the chapel necessitated a very limited number of guests, including the parents and family members of the sisters' families.

Not long after the dedication, Father David Bellusci, O.P. came to celebrate Mass for the sisters in Frassati Chapel. Father has been a dear friend of the sisters, having faithfully and frequently celebrated early morning Masses in every convent they have lived in since their arrival in Vancouver!

This convent is a real treasure and offers the Sisters a beautiful space to live their consecrated life. It is three levels, with the highest level being reserved for the sisters' monastic cells. The main floor houses the chapel, the refectory, the kitchen, the community room, a visiting parlour, and a guest cell which allows

the sisters the opportunity of hosting those who are intentionally discerning a vocation to the congregation. The bottom level holds the library, a teacher workroom for the sisters to plan and prepare lessons, and two small rooms which can be used for office space and other needs. Currently, there are four Dominican Sisters residing in this convent, but there is room for up to five. Frassati Convent has happily accommodated eight sisters when the St. Cecilia sisters from their nearest mission in Bremerton, Washington, U.S.A arrive!

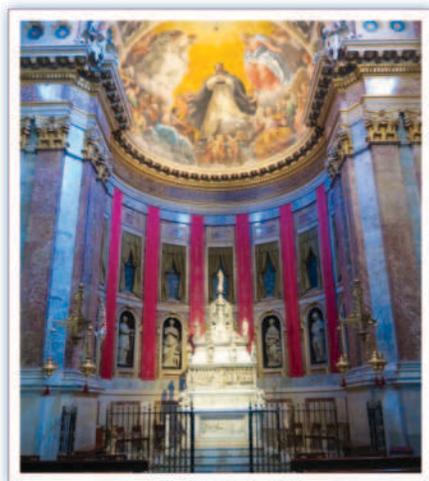
The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia are so grateful for the support of the Dominican family and friends who rejoice with them in God's goodness. They ask continued prayers for their congregation, particularly for the young sisters in formation, a number of whom are Canadians, including one of the twenty-one postulants who entered in August 2025 and a canonical novice.



The Fra Angelico Fraternity

In the footsteps of St. Dominic in Italy

by Benoît Des Roches



Last year, the Fra Angelico Fraternity celebrated its 30th anniversary. In view of this anniversary, our fraternity has chosen to mark the occasion with a pilgrimage in 2025: In the footsteps of St. Dominic in Italy, echoing Fra Angelico's very first pilgrimage in 2007, In the footsteps of St. Dominic in Languedoc, in which all our children participated at the time.

So, from September 19 to 30, five couples traveled to Bologna, where Saint Dominic died in 1221, then to Florence, where Fra Angelico, our blessed patron saint, lived, before continuing to Assisi to follow in the footsteps of Francis, Dominic de Guzmán's great contemporary and patron saint of Italy and ecologists. Rome completed this pilgrimage, since, as they say, all roads lead there!

We began each day with reflection and song and ended with a review of the day and a moment of prayer. During our meeting on October 25, we were able to share with the whole group and discover how much our hearts had been united on both sides of the Atlantic and how much we nourished each other spiritually on this common journey through texts, photos, videos, and communal prayer shared by all the members of Fra Angelico, all on the path to the truth of the heart and the Spirit.

All were struck by one aspect or another, whether it was the bust and majestic tomb of Saint Dominic in Bologna, Fra Angelico's famous painting, The Annunciation, in the Convent of San Marco in Florence, or the asceticism of the path and the grace of nature in Assisi, in the Carceri where Francesco and his disciples went to meditate. For others, it was the magnificence of St. Peter's in Rome and the Sistine Chapel, tributes from the heart and mind of man to his God, or the crucifix in the small, bare chapel of San Damiano, where Francis received the mission to rebuild the Church of Christ. Following in the footsteps of those who based their lives on the Gospel has had a profound impact on us, and the Spirit will continue to guide our steps in this direction.

A big thank you to Sr. Thérèse Marie Boillat, of the Roman Congregation of Saint Dominic, who accompanied us so well through the maze of Rome, as an accomplished guide and with such a big heart that we will always remember her fondly.

OP LAITY

Daniel Cadrin, o.p., provincial promotor

NEWS FROM THE FRATERNITIES

New Fraternities: Two fraternity projects are underway and will soon be formally recognized: in Ottawa, the Fraternity *Saint-Jean-Baptiste*, French-speaking; in Sherbrooke, the Fraternity *Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin*.

In Ottawa, the English-speaking Fraternity *Antonio de Montesinos* has changed its name. It is now called the Fraternity *St. Thomas Aquinas*.

Commitments: In August and September, in the Fraternity *Rosario* of Toronto, 1 permanent and 12 temporary commitments were made. In September, in the Fraternity *St. Pius V* of Edmonton, 4 permanent and 3 temporary commitments took place. Also in September, in the English-speaking fraternity project in Montreal, 1 permanent and 1 temporary commitment were made. On December 7, in Quebec City, during the Eucharist at St-Dominique's Church, 4 members of the Fraternity *Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne* made their first temporary commitment and 4 renewed it. On January 28, in Montreal, during Vespers at St-Albert-le-Grand's Church, 2 members of the Fraternity *Albert-le-Grand* made their permanent commitment.

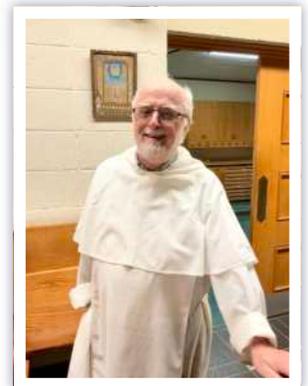
Initial formation: Following the Provincial Chapter of the Laity in June 2024, a committee was appointed to work on the initial formation of lay OP members in Canada. Meetings were held in June 2025 in Montreal and Toronto to gather the needs and expectations of the fraternities. Formation programs are currently being prepared for each of the three stages of entry into the Order: initial welcome (equivalent to postulancy for

brothers and sisters), preparation for temporary commitment (novitiate), and preparation for permanent commitment.

Religious Assistants: The Provincial Prior, Br. Yves Bériault, has appointed Br. David Bellusci as religious assistant to the Fraternity *St. Catherine of Siena* in Calgary. At the Fraternity *Mysteria Lucis* in Vancouver, Br. Dieudonné Bigirimana succeeds Br. Gilles Simard. In Montreal, at the Fraternity *Pier-Giorgio-Frassati*, Br. Raymond Latour will succeed Br. Jean-Louis Larochelle.

DLIPC: A meeting of the DLIPC (*Dominican Laity Interprovincial Council*), bringing together delegates from the North American Provincial Councils (5 provinces), will be held April 10-12, 2026, in Portland, Oregon. In the current context of relations between the United States and Canada, the delegates of the Provincial Council of Canada have chosen not to travel to Portland but to participate in the meeting via Zoom.

Friars' Chapter: The friars will hold their provincial chapter this summer, from July 12 to 24th, in Toronto. Four members of the laity have been invited to participate in two preparatory Commissions: one on intellectual life and one on finances.



VISIO DIVINA: LOOKING AND LISTENING

Daniel Cadrin, o.p.

The Lectio divina method has proven effective for reading the Scriptures, deepening one's understanding of them and immersing oneself personally. Originally developed in monastic circles, it is now more widely used among Christians. It consists of four stages: lectio, a careful reading of the biblical text; meditatio, a time to internalize the Word; oratio, a time of prayer; and contemplatio, a time to remain in the presence of the living God.

In recent years, a new approach inspired by this method has developed: Visio divina. Beginning in the United States, it is now spreading. Its novelty lies in including, in the process, a work of art related to a biblical story: painting, stained glass, drawing, sculpture, mosaic, etc. In Quebec, it has been present for some years thanks to the Société Expo-Bible du Québec (SEBQ), in collaboration with the Office de Catéchèse du Québec (OCQ).

Today, there are different models of Visio divina, each with its own way of integrating Lectio divina and connecting the work of art and the biblical text. Here I present the SEBQ model. In the first stage, lectio is replaced by careful observation of a work of art, with questions to sharpen the eyes. The second stage, meditatio, begins with listening to the biblical text and ends with sharing, focusing on both the work of art and the text. The

process continues with prayer and contemplation. Thus, it includes moments of silence, of looking and listening, of sharing the Word and praying.

For some time now, I have been facilitating Visio Divina meetings via Zoom. Of course, they can also be done in person. I do this regularly with the SEBQ. And occasionally with groups: this year, during Advent and Lent, with pastoral agents from the Diocese of Saint-Jérôme-Mont-Laurier. Each time, as I listen to people's observations and insights about the artwork and the biblical text, I see elements that I hadn't seen in the artwork before; I hear words in the text that had escaped me. It is very interesting and inspiring.

The SEBQ website offers tools for facilitating Visio Divina meetings: <http://www.interbible.org/sebq/visio>. For each one, there is a kit with the image and the biblical text and a facilitation guide presenting the four steps of the process: <http://www.interbible.org/sebq/visio/trousses.html>. All of this is available.

Take a look. With these tools, you can start by experiencing Visio divina on your own, then perhaps with a few others. You can also participate in a Visio divina by registering for one on the SEBQ website. The list of upcoming meetings is available at: <http://www.interbible.org/sebq/visio/calendrier.html>.

Welcome to the new provincial office!

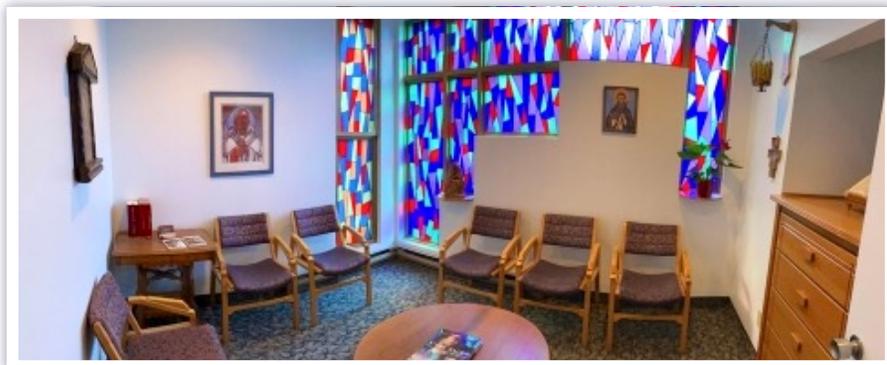
Here it is, it's done! After weeks of preparation stacking boxes in the corridor, the move has finally taken place, under the direction of Mr. Sylvain Bossé, Deputy of the Syndic, and with the valuable help of Mr. François Nadeau, who had the delicate task of properly organizing the archives. A hard job! Since last December, the Provincial Administration—the provincial office—has settled into its new premises on Piedmont Street, at the foot of the Mountain, as the name suggests.

It was a happy coincidence that led to this move. The premises at 2715 Chemin-de-la-Côte-Sainte-Catherine no longer belonged to the Saint-Albert-le-Grand community, and the rental space was too large for actual needs, so the Dominicans were thinking of another place to house the provincialate. It remained a wish until the day when the Religious of Sainte-Croix, having caught wind of this search, offered the rental of their premises located on the floor of their own administration. Once explored, these spaces were entirely suitable to house the offices of the provincialate. The Religious of Sainte-Croix kindly refreshed the premises, with all the rooms receiving a good coat of paint, which further enhanced the brightness of the space.

In addition to the rooms for the offices, the provincial house has a meeting room, a well-furnished and decorated lounge, a small kitchen, and a dining room. The list should have begun with a small chapel whose stained glass windows spread a calming blue light.

On February 11, members of both administrations, including Father Claude Grou, superior of the Canadian Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross, were able to fraternize at the new provincial house over crêpes and cakes prepared through the kind care of the secretary of the provincial prior, Mrs. Patricia Gongot, who took office in January.

On Wednesday, February 18th, the friars of Saint-Albert were invited to visit the provincial house and did not fail to notice both the light and the functional nature of the place. They too were treated to Madame Gongot's cakes!



The provincial administration of the Canadian Dominicans was first housed in St. Hyacinthe, when the vicariate canonically became a province in 1911. The provincialate moved to the Notre-Dame de Grâces Convent in 1926, and then to that of Saint-Albert-le-Grand in 1998.

The members of the Provincial Administration gathered for a New Year's dinner on January 14th. Recognized from left to right: Raymond Latour, socius, Yves Bériault, provincial prior, Denis Rochon, acting Syndic assistant, Rodrigue Guilmet, archivist, Tony Cicci, Works of Saint Jude (his fellow member, Madame Gisèle Hébert, was absent), Madame Patricia Gongot, secretary to the provincial prior, Mr. François Nadeau, archivist, Madame Régine Duroseau Daniel, administrative assistant, Yves Cailhier, visual archives, M. Sylvain Bossé, adjoint of the Provincial Syndic, (fr. André Descôteaux), Fr. Gustave Nsengiyumva, secretary of the Province, and Mr. Jean Côté, in charge of the chalets.



Statement by the International Dominican Commission for Justice and Peace on the situation in Iran

We, members of the International Dominican Commission for Justice and Peace (IDCJP), grounded in the belief that every human person is created by God and endowed with inalienable dignity, lift our hearts in prayerful solidarity with the people of Iran, who are enduring profound suffering, traumatic violence, and the tragic loss of life.

The Dominican Order first established a presence in Iran in the 13th century and has a long history of fostering mutual understanding and peace in the region. From this shared history, we speak not as strangers, but as brothers and sisters concerned for the lives and dignity of the Iranian people.

Moved by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we express our deep closeness to all who mourn (Mt. 5:4). In a special way, we offer our heartfelt condolences to families who have lost their loved ones and, praying that God “will wipe

every tear from their eyes” (Rev. 21:4), entrust the dead to the mercy of God, who alone is the Lord of life and death (Deut. 32:39).

We urgently appeal to the Iranian authorities to safeguard the lives of all citizens, to respect their dignity, and to take concrete steps to halt further bloodshed. No political goal can justify the taking of innocent life.

We likewise call upon the international community to act with courage and responsibility, employing diplomatic, peaceful, and nonviolent means to bring this crisis to an end. True security and lasting peace is not born of repression or force, but of justice, dialogue, and trust.

We commend the people of Iran to God’s providence and add our voices to that of Pope Leo XIV who has prayed for Iran, “that dialogue and peace may be patiently nurtured in pursuit of the common good of the whole society.



Fr. Thomas le Taillandier de Gabory

"The Hospital is my parish!"

by Raymond Latour, o.p.

Every day, except on holidays, with a palliative care team, Friar Thomas le Taillandier de Gabory accompanies people at the end of life at the Jewish General Hospital, "the Jewish". He is a doctor. As a doctor he carries out his work. He is also a Dominican Friar, by vocation. "The Hospital is my parish," he will say to indicate how the priest and the palliative medicine practitioner are unified and, no doubt, mutually nourished.

Arriving in Canada four years ago, Friar Thomas had envisioned a teaching experience at the Dominican College, replacing Friar Didier Caenepeel during his sabbatical year... Instead, he worked on the creation of the Dominican Center for Ethics and Spiritual Life (CDEVS, later CDEF) and, at the request of the provincial prior, Brother Jean Doutré, he obtained recognition to practice medicine in Quebec, a long and difficult process, which included a demanding three-month internship. He was thus brought back to the medical profession he had practiced in the Philippines and Île de la Réunion, in the field of palliative care, with limited resources. He had also worked for 10 years with AIDS patients in France.

After this obstacle course, here he is working at the renowned "Jewish Hospital," in an English-speaking environment, he who had only a limited knowledge of English. He says, however, that he is very happy, appreciating the support and camaraderie of the members of the palliative care unit and the volunteers who work there. He specifies that it is not a multidisciplinary team but indeed an "interdisciplinary" one, where the interventions of each member complement each other (chaplain, nursing staff, psychologist, care aide, music therapist, art therapist, etc.). Each member is called upon to ensure the comfort and peace of people at the end of life. The doctors are specifically responsible for alleviating physical pain and discomfort as much as possible, but many other factors must also be considered. The whole person, in all their dimensions, is welcomed and supported. The interdisciplinary model is becoming essential to meet multiple needs. Friar Thomas would like it to be used more among the Dominicans...

For him, the top priority remains the spiritual dimension. The goal is to guide both patients and their families toward letting go and acceptance, which implies a renunciation of false hopes. From experience,



he finds that 'the non-pharmacological part of care cannot be learned from books.' Bonds are formed with patients, even if the duration of the relationship is relatively short. This intensity of the encounter is not easy to manage on some days.

Three words would serve to describe his support: trust, hope, and friendship: trust in caregivers and medications, hope to appreciate the value of the remaining time, and friendship for the bonds with loved ones and the care team. Faith, hope, and charity are emerging.

At work, friendships are formed among staff members, which undoubtedly helps to maintain everyone's morale. The palliative care unit is not a depressing place! But that is due to the ability of its members to focus on the mission of providing patients with the best possible quality of life until the end. There is no doubt that our brother Thomas contributes his part!

Innovating in palliative care?

Friar Thomas is interested in research in palliative care. He participates, for example, in psychedelic sessions where music therapy and medications combine to induce an out-of-body experience in patients. Research also focuses on the development of new drugs to relieve complex diseases such as Parkinson's. The results are promising. The Quebec Association of Palliative Care will present a study to this effect at a conference in May in Sherbrooke. Fr. Thomas is also involved in preparing an international palliative care congress, which will be under the auspices of McGill University next October. It is worth noting that the 13 beds in the Palliative Care Unit of the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal are always occupied. There appears to be a shortage of places in Quebec for people requiring these services.



The Rosary in Maria Apparitions

by Lamphone Phonevilay
(Provincial Promotor of the Rosary)

On October 7, 2025, with the cooperation of the friars from the Quebec convent, I organized the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary at Saint Dominic Church. The program included the prayer of Vespers with the faithful, a conference, the praying of the rosary with our sisters, the Dominican Missionary Adorers, a Mass, and a torchlight procession.

I gave a conference titled "The Rosary in Marian Apparitions." In this conference, I sought to highlight

what some of the apparitions that have received ecclesiastical recognition say about the rosary, focusing on two apparitions in particular: the apparitions of Fatima (1917) and the apparitions of Medjugorje (1981–present).

My analysis of the content of the messages delivered during these apparitions allowed me to highlight the following points.

The Rosary in the apparitions of Fatima: We are invited to pray the rosary every day

- It is a prayer...
- ... that makes us grow in holiness
- ... to obtain peace and the end of wars
- ... that allows us to nurture our relationship with God
- ... to obtain the powerful intercession of Mary
- ... that leads us to salvation, to our salvation and that of others
- ... that works miracles
- ... that brings us close to the Holy Family and strengthens family unity
- ... that obtains great graces for us.



The Rosary in the apparitions of Medjugorje:

- We are invited to pray the full Rosary every day
- Priests are invited to pray the Rosary and devote time to it
- Consecrated persons are invited to pray the Rosary and teach it to others
- The Rosary is a school of prayer
- It is a prayer...

- ... to be prayed in the family
- ... to obtain the conversion of sinners
- ... which is a weapon in the spiritual battle
- ... which makes us triumph over the Evil One
- ... to support the Church
- ... which allows us to receive the help of the Virgin
- ... which brings us closer to God
- ... which should be done with joy and leads to joy
- ... which places us under the protection of Mary
- ... which performs miracles
- ... which allows us to open our hearts to Mary

- ... which allows us to encounter Jesus
- ... which helps us overcome everyday trials
- ... which helps us find meaning in life
- ... which brings us consolation
- ... to be recited for others, to relieve the ills of our world
- ... to be recited with the heart
- ... that makes us saints
- ... that allows Mary to make her dwelling with us
- ... that transforms our life

May the messages of Our Lady delivered during her apparitions encourage us to pray the rosary with joy and perseverance!

The best part

Funeral Homily for Br. Steve Dumas

Raymond Latour, o.p.

Brother Steve's loud and resounding laughter undoubtedly echoes in the hearts of all the people who knew him. This laughter spoke both of his joy of life, which he also expressed in song, and of his hospitality to the people he loved to welcome at his table.

Steve was my fellow novice, in the year 1979-1980. He was only 23 years old while the oldest was 40! A group of five rather disparate novices. I was a bit intimidated at my first steps in this community of Dominicans in Quebec. But Steve's presence never failed to lighten the atmosphere with his contagious good mood. For the group of novices who met every week around a meal, he prepared dishes that greatly helped us feel at home with the Dominicans.

From his native Matane, he already knew the Dominican sisters who worked at the hospital and whom he visited regularly. Steve had an encyclopedic knowledge of female religious communities: he could identify them all by their habits and appreciated their various commitments.

Steve had been destined to become a cook since his earliest childhood. Even as a very young child, he was never far from what his mother was cooking: "he was always in my dishes," she tells us. Steve took several recipes from her, adding a little personal touch to them.

After high school, he will want to enroll in cooking courses in Rivière-du-Loup, but the institution decided that it was not his place... He will soon find his place, at the age of 15, as a kitchen assistant at Monsieur Alcide's restaurant "Délices," who, four years later, will offer him a job at the Shefferville hotel, two significant years for him.

Throughout his journey in Dominican life, besides cooking, he held the positions of laundry worker and sacristan for a few years. He also did sewing and maintenance work. He was also the director of the Works of Saint Jude. In these various jobs, he was very dedicated. Each of his jobs was his domain, which he jealously guarded, protected from any intrusion... and always welcoming to anyone who wanted to chat with him. Training in psychotherapy added to his natural listening skills.

As a Dominican friar, Steve enjoyed opportunities to preach. A Christmas homily in Trois-Rivières left a mark: Steve was talking about cooking a ham! People appreciated his sense of humor and his concrete and vivid language. If, in the Gospel we have just heard, Mary chose the better part, the Gospel tells us nothing about Martha's choice. Our brother Steve, with his cooking talents, would identify more with Martha than with Mary.



Cooks, as is well known, normally do not get the best share. It is intended for the guests. There is a kind of selflessness in this profession, entirely devoted to the pleasure and satisfaction of those who share the table. Unlike Marthe, Steve never seemed overwhelmed by the kitchen services. He liked to host, but in recent years, health problems had somewhat limited his social life. He neglected nothing to please his guests, not hesitating to go all out, with table decorations worthy of fine dining restaurants.

There was also in him a contemplative dimension that brings him closer to Mary of the Gospel, the one who chose the better part, the one who was able to free herself from the necessities of daily life to give importance to a dialogue with Christ. In our Gospel, Mary did not yield to the tyranny of what is necessary, she did not accept being requisitioned by her sister to prepare the meal. She stayed, as a disciple, seated at the feet of Jesus, affirming through her attitude what Jesus would confirm: "one thing is necessary." She chose the better part. It was an act of freedom to which Martha was also invited. Our brother Steve, in choosing the Order of Preachers, which unifies action and contemplation, favored this dimension of communion with God. A recipe for life that he wishes to share with us today.



dominicains.ca/en