



Put your hope in Yahweh, be strong, let your heart be bold, put your hope in Yahweh (Ps 26 (27):14)

DOMINICAN SISTERS INTERNATIONAL



CONTENTS

- DSE—Workshop for Formators 1
- DSE - CE Seventh Dominican Spiritual Workshop in Koszeg, Hungary 3
- CODALC - Formation for Formators Course in Bogota, Colombia 5
- Groupement Fraternel Session in Normandy, France 7

PAPER CLIP NEWS

- Visit to the Sisters of Poland 11
- The joy of having Fr. Bruno Cadore, OP in Lisbon, Portugal 13
- General Assembly USMID 14
- Past Events 15
- Upcoming Events 16

DSE—WORKSHOP FOR FORMATORS Rome, Italy 20-24 September, 2018



Theme of the Session: *“The Affective / Human Dimension of Formation”*

Dominican Sisters International’s (DSI) biennial Formation Course for Formators organized by Dominican Sisters Europe (DSE), under the leadership of Sr. Else-Britt Nilsen, was

held at Casa La Salle, Rome from September 20-24, 2018. Participants were of various congregations present in Europe (Austria, England, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and South Africa)

cont’d p. 2



**12th – 18th May, 2019
La Salle, Casa Generalizia , Rome**

Do save the date in 2019!

Cont'd DSE—WORKSHOP FOR FORMATORS...

Four speakers were invited to share their expertise on the theme *“The Affective/Human Dimension of Formation”*. Sr. Marie Therese Clement O.P., DSI’s International Coordinator presented an overview of affective maturity as a developmental growth process. Working as a team, Mrs. Anna P. Zambalera, a Psychodynamic Psychotherapist and Sr. Geraldine Smyth O.P., a Theologian and with a diploma in Transpersonal Psychotherapy and Psychosynthesis, presented varied and relevant topics on the formation journey such as self-knowledge and self-discipline, dynamics of relationships and ethical framework for practice. They facilitated the sessions through lectures, small group sharing, and exercises of role-play and plenary feedback. The 4th presenter, Fr. Vivian Boland O.P., Socius of the Master of the Order for Fraternal Life and Formation, presented affective maturity in relation to Saint Thomas Aquinas’ work on human action, passions and virtues.

A day was allotted for a joint meeting with the Dominican friars responsible for permanent formation in the Order, who had a week-long workshop on permanent formation. The encounter, which took place at the Angelicum, provided room for shared reflections and exchange of ideas between the sisters and the friars on opportunities for permanent or on-going formation and related issues. After an enjoyable lunch with the friars and a guided tour at the Angelicum, the sisters went to the Basilica of Saint Clement and spent time marveling at the archeological excavations.

It was a fruitful and enriching workshop. Participants expressed gratitude and satisfaction for new learnings and insights, the feeling of family belonging and the opportunity of making and renewing contacts. □



Srs. Marie Therese Clement, DSI’s International Coordinator, Else-Britt Nilsen Continental Coordinator for Europe, Laetitia Youchtchenko, translator, Cecile Espenilla DSI International Promoter of Justice & Peace.



Mrs. Anna P. Zambalera a Psychodynamic Psychotherapist and Sr. Geraldine Smyth OP, a theologian & transpersonal psychotherapy and psychosynthesis



Fr. Vivian Boland OP, Socius for Fraternal Life and Formation



SEVENTH DOMINICAN SPIRITUALITY WORKSHOP OF THE CENTRAL-EASTERN EUROPEAN REGION (DSE-CE)

Koszeg, Hungary

By: Sr. Lucia Petres, O.P.,
DSE-CE Regional Coordinator



It was with a lot of joy and some amount of anxiety that I looked forward to the 7th Dominican Workshop of our DSE region. Joy because I could not wait to see my sisters from other congregations and anxiety because this time my own congregation agreed to organise the event and I wanted everything to be perfect and memorable. And it turned out to be just so, not only because of the remarkable organisational skills of my sisters, but also for the incredibly good lecturers and all the wonderful participants. Yet again, as always, it was a week of special graces and family time in the small jewel of a town, Koszeg, Hungary.

We are grateful to our two Dominican biblical scholars, Sr. Nazik from Iraq and Fr. Philippe Lefebvre from Fribourg for being our lecturers: they opened up a whole new perspective on our vocation as women, in the light of some female biblical figures, their life experiences and choices. We sat mesmerized listening to the lectures and pondered the words and insights in our hearts for days and weeks to come. As one of the sisters put it: “I loved how our lecturers talked about the stories of biblical families as if they were talking about their own relatives, and biblical people as if they were close family members. Somehow they brought everyone they talked about in our close proximity: their story became our story. They even taught us how God can work through nega-

tive events or personages or their morally questionable decisions. We grew to see how women have a special place in God’s heart, and a special role in God’s plan to bring life abundant to the world.” *(Sr. Zsofia, Hungary)*



Sr. Marjolein Brunein shared with us information about women trafficking and got us to think and pray together for the victims, considering what we can do to help even in small ways, even in raising awareness. Thanks to Sr. Marie Therese and Sr. Cecilia, we also got an insight and update on DSI and Justice and Peace activities. And of course it was not all work and study, but recreation and fun, as well: we had a wonderful all day outing to the famous Benedictine abbey of Pannonhalma – even had chocolate and wine tasting and came away with a vast knowledge on the specialties of wine production thanks to a very enthusiastic and expert tour guide.

We also preached with our presence in the town in the evenings, we even made it into the local newspaper: just imagine 80 sisters in the white Dominican habit conquering the town centre... We also had postulants and novices with us, mostly from the DSE-CE region, but one novice also from Norway: as I was taking their group photo in front of the parish church, my heart was filled with joy and hope for the future. God is good all the time.

Cont'd SEVENTH DOMINICAN SPIRITUAL WORKSHOP ...

As a conclusion, some of the sisters sharing their own experiences with you:

“For me this meeting has been a wonderful experience of prayer and community and a very important opportunity to study together, strengthen our connections on a European level and meet new sisters. Thank you so much for the organization: these meetings are a source of life for us Dominican Sisters in Europe, especially the younger ones.” *(Sr. Franziska, Austria)*

“This gathering has enriched our lives with examples of women from the Bible, while at the same time connecting sisters from around the world. It was wonderful meeting the sisters, sharing experiences and getting to know one another. We would like these gatherings to happen more often.” *(Sr. Ana, Croatia)*

“It has been a great gift to me to be able to participate as a postulant. I loved the internationality, the way we communicated in many languages, and that amidst this rich and manifold reality I could still experience our oneness. I am most grateful for the lectures and the liturgy, they both deepened my prayer.” *(Sr. Beata, Hungary)*



by the generous hospitality of the Hungarian sisters. We will not quickly forget Koszeg 2018.” *(Sr. Ann-Catherine and sr. Tamsin, England)*

“I am most grateful for the lectures, it was a unique experience how some of the difficult and painful topics that came up, flowed over into my personal prayer, deepening my love of the Bible. Never before have I had the opportunity to listen to biblical scholars speaking so openly and deeply about such topics.” *(Sr. Bernadett, Hungary)*

“It was a pleasure to see and speak to sisters from different countries, their radiant presence and our common prayer and liturgy brought me closer to God and strengthened my Dominican vocation.” *(one of the novices of the DSE-CE region)*

“We have common roots, we have so many things in common, we even started working together on different projects in our region thanks to these workshops. We have formed friendships that last through time and space: I feel very much at home here.” *(Sr. Gabriela, Slovakia)*

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“Thank you for this opportunity to participate in the workshop. The liturgy was a truly inspiring experience of prayer in many languages. The lectures on women in the Bible threw light on the role of women today, their lived experience and the mystery of suffering. It was deeply moving to see this elaborated in accounts of recent events in Iraq and the horror of human trafficking. Above it all it has been wonderful to renew and deepen friendships and to make new contacts, facilitated

A special thanks to DSI for their generous support, especially to Sr. Marie Therese Clement OP, International Coordinator of DSI and her Coordinating Council. We are grateful to her, as well as to Sr. Marjolein Brunein OP, secretary of UCESM, and Sr. Cecilia Espenilla OP, International Promoter for Justice and Peace for gracing our workshop with their presence. It was a pleasure having you with us! □

CODALC - FORMATION FOR FORMATORS COURSE

Bogota, Colombia

By: Sr. Noemí Zambrano, O.P.,
DSI Continental Coordinator, Latin
America & the Caribbean.
President of CODALC



The formation course 2018, under the Theme: “The Formation community as a formative ecosystem”, was held from August 16 - 26 of in Bogota, Colombia. 90 brothers and sisters from Latin America and the Caribbean participated, 9 cloistered nuns, 63 sisters of the Apostolic Life and 19 Nuns from the entire CODALC organisation.

The course was directed by Sr. Viviana Sisack and Fr. Rafael Colomé, with the organised support of Sr. Noemí Zambrano and Fr. Adhemar Ventura. Also present were several brothers and sisters and course presenters such as Ana Francisca Vergara and Juliana Triana Palomino from The Presentation, Sr. Marcela Soto (JPIC-CODALC Promoter), Fr. Vivian Boland Socious for the Formation and the Fraternal Life; Fr. Olando Rueda, Socious for the Apostolic Life and Fr. Luis Javier Rubio Socious for Latin America and the Caribbean and President of CODALC.

In the mornings we worked together and in the evenings we worked separately to further deepen our respective gender perspectives. The presentations helped so that the course could be lived as a profound encounter with oneself, with the sisters and with God. It was a time of profound and attentive listening to find all Dominican ways

that could help to accompany the youth using a healing, integrative ecosystem that emerge from a holistic spirituality.



In the evenings we worked in the communities of life that allowed us to reflect on our own experiences, certainties, searches and questions. There we had a strong community experience that helped us grow in confidence and confidentiality. There were intense times of listening, silence, quietness, celebration and dance.

In the middle of the course we had a day off to renew our energy. There were three options; to go together to visit the Salt Cathedral, to stay and rest at home or to visit the communities. The group that went to the Salt Cathedral visited the Chiquinquirá Basilica and was welcomed by the monks who attend to the sanctuary. All the

Cont'd CODALC - FORMATION FOR FORMATORS COURSE...

participants came back renewed and with the strengthening of the fraternity to continue the work.

The liturgies, organised by zones, included the cultures of the different countries and they helped us to praise, bless and preach. The different cultures were intertwined into an atmosphere of solidarity and fraternity.

A special thanks to the Colombian Federation and especially to sister Clara Emilia Vázquez Pinzón for all their support in making this course a reality.

On having finished the course we left with grateful hearts and with the certainty that these training courses, like the Dominican Family, continue to be fundamental to fortifying the ways of formation in our continent. □



GROUPEMENT FRATERNEL SESSION

Normandy, France

23rd March, 2018

Under the theme: “Spiritual Abuse”
The Exercise of Authority and the Dehumanizing
Actions among the Christian Community

By: Sr. María Fabiola Velásquez M.
Former DSI’s International Coordinator &
Vice-President of Groupement Fraternel



Thirty three Religious Sisters of various Dominican congregations spent a day at the St. James Hospital in Paris to attend a session coordinated by Brother Gilles Berceville, O.P. of the Order of the Annunciation who is also a Professor in Theology at the Catholic Institute of Paris.

What does this session entail? What is our responsibility? We are elated to share some ideas with you.

We recall, in the first instance, that all groups need a figure of authority for the purpose of organisation and as a means of establishing a code of conduct. The absence of an authoritative voice contributes to a loss of a sense of direction, a feeling of insecurity, the emergence of clicks, of authoritarian leaders etc.

To possess authority is synonymous to allowing each member to find his rightful place, thus enabling them to develop their full potential. Embracing authority has to be understood in the context of a delegation contributing to the emergence of a

structure and not simply welcoming a figure of power who serves his own interest.

All disrespect to a real authority, all forms of domination, all coercive acts derive from some form of injustice.

Spiritual Abuse, is it a new phenomenon, a secular one or a phenomenon for all centuries?

Spiritual abuse has always existed. It is denounced in the bible where Jesus often confronted the attitude of the Pharisees. Such abusive situations cause individuals to worry excessively about the punishment of the Father, instead of embracing the freedom of the Father experienced through love. *“Woe unto you also (...) because you place heavy burdens on men’s shoulders but would not lift a finger to move them.”* Luke 11:46.

Although Jesus Christ does not use the words ‘spiritual abuse’ the allusion is unequivocal, for, what is spiritual abuse if not a heavy, very heavy burden to carry both on a psychological and spiritual level. It is important to note that Jesus insists on the fact that the abusers themselves do not respect the rules that they impose and force their victims to carry. Moreover, Jesus calls them ‘hypocrites’ because their teaching does not correspond with God’s Will. In effect, Jesus’s essential message consist in liberating those who are victims of such forms of slavery. *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, to set captives free”*. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is one of Liberation (of life) and not one of condemnation and slavery (death).

Cont'd GROUPEMENT FRATERNEL SESSION...



Due to the wrong use of their authority, individuals within the religious community whom they are expected to edify, suffer prejudices. Likewise, the church or the place of worship that should become a haven of security, of peace and of love, becomes a place where excruciating sufferings are experienced. These places become areas where the representation of authority, abusers of their own powers, find joy

It is worth noting that Jesus, to whom God entrusted His authority, who acted and spoke with authority, as he says to us on several occasions in the gospel, never confused his authority with the temporal power of those who are rich; the power of monarchs, a power that he has always refused and rejected.

Therefore, one can say that where there is a human structure, a risk of abuse in the area of authority as much as in the area of spirituality. Our Christian communities unfortunately, are not protected from such abuses. In a Christian community that comprises individuals from different horizons, of different levels of maturity and fragilities, of diverse ages, the pastor should be particularly attentive to authoritative approaches that can be assimilated into spiritual abuse.

It is therefore necessary to lay some benchmarks that can, in cases where they have failed, help the pastors and members of the church to identify the possible abuses and to terminate oppressive systems. Let us reflect on the definition of **abuse**: it is the wrong use of one's rights or one's authority for personal reasons in ways that are harmful to the society, for this brings about injustice. Then, the definition of **spiritual abuse**: It is a form of injustice on the part of churches, Christian or otherwise, resulting from the wrong use of their rights or

their powers that are associated with their functions.

in exploiting the faults and weaknesses of their faithful or the believers. Whatever the places that encourage those abuses - religious communities, totalitarian groups or sects - one finds the use of similar methods, with similarities in the profiles of abusers as well as in the attitudes of the victims.

Love Bombing: this means that the individual is welcomed through a demonstration of love and kindness, motivated by the desire on the part of those with spiritual responsibility, to control. This creates affective dependency and a loss of one's ability to critique.

Culpability through Reciprocity: In exchange for the kindness manifested to the victim upon his arrival in the community, he must become submissive and express unending gratitude so as not to be reproached for ingratitude. The consequence of not doing so will be a feeling of shame.

The Ritual of Confession: the sessions of confessions of sins are accompanied by criticism. The objective is to create a sense of guilt to force individuals to change their personality, thus leading them to adopt an attitude of blind obedience towards the spiritual leader.

Cont'd GROUPEMENT FRATERNEL SESSION...



The Control of one's Thoughts and one's Free Will through phobia: One changes the meaning of the scripture texts to create a negative impression on the victim who may think differently from the spiritual leader or who may simply want to leave the group. The following are some examples:

- “One must submit to persons in authority since they are appointed by God”;
- “You should die to yourself”;
- “A follower of Christ must carry his cross”;
- You are slow to understand, you must be breastfed with spiritual milk;

It is important to note that the texts are cited out of context and the argument used by the abuser is that “these messages are rooted in the Bible”. The objective is to pretend that nothing is hidden or invented: the scripture texts are communicated so that the listener can control the accuracy of the verses cited in the reference. This is a subtle form of manipulation for, someone who does not have a sound knowledge of the scriptures can be easily caught. The aim of the abuser is to use the bible to better control the victim. The scripture passages are cited solely for this purpose rather than for the purpose of giving a theological explanation.

The abusers, although very different, have similar characteristics that should be discerned.

This individual is very charismatic, likes to control

and is authoritative; someone who is not inclined to critique oneself, declares that his authority was given by God and uses prophecy, miracles and gifts of healing to justify his power. This individual uses techniques to manipulate people mentally in order to control them, thus demanding greater effort of his lambs. She tries, above all, to satisfy her desire for power rather than lead the flock to Christ.

Often, the abuser possesses psychopathologies, for example, overemphasis on self, and often presents himself as the Saviour or as Divine Providence. He possesses the whole truth. He attracts a flock; people who flatter him and who fight for his cause. He is wicked; all external criticisms are viewed as satanic attacks. Consequently, he lives in a closed environment and tries to identify the future victim in his family, among his friends etc. There is also a form of psycho-rigidity: the abusive leader never acknowledges his own mistakes even when there is evidence.

The realities that we have evoked, to a lesser extent, are not easily visible in our communities. Maybe at some point of our journey, we may have lived through such an experience or we may have crossed the path of some sisters or other individuals who may have suffered or still suffer as a result.

In all sincerity, as Dominicans, we should ask ourselves what should our attitude be in the

Cont'd GROUPEMENT FRATERNEL SESSION...

presence of such individuals who feel that they are victims or whom we know are victims, although they may not necessarily be aware of it. We should create an atmosphere of confidence and of dialogue so that these individuals can discern whether they were victims of spiritual, psychological or emotional abuse. This is not a simple task, since those individuals are often in denial although they may be feeling uncomfortable. It is important to note that often the victims develop psychological pathologies: a sense of solitude, relational problems resulting from a lack of self-confidence and difficulties in developing new amicable relationships. They experience difficulties transcending dualistic thinking that was inculcated in them by a certain vision that the world is either black or white. They are often in a state of depression. There is a feeling of guilt, thinking that they have been ungrateful to the group. They feel stupid that they were so naïve in the face of their manipulators. They also feel that they have wasted time and money.

How do we help a victim of spiritual abuse?

Let us remember that to help is to accompany the 'Other' and not dictate to them the methods they should adopt. Consequently, we should welcome the individual without asking questions or judging the situation. Patience is important. We should listen in silence without imposing our point of view, while respecting his choices.

Finally, some advice to avoid this ill among Christian groups.

- Firstly, accept diversity since God is plural, otherwise we will divert towards fundamentalism.
- Be tolerant.
- Remind oneself that people in authority should not exercise power in their own interest but they should serve, following the example of Jesus.
- Be animated by true charity, a authentic reflection of the unconditional love of God for humanity.

Sources

- Pascal Zivi and Jacques Poujol, *L'Abuse Spirituel, Identifier, Accompagner*, New Edition, 88Resume by Marie-AHin.
- Francis Mouhot, *Cahiers-Ecole-Pastorale* No. 88, excerpt from a journal article written by this psychologist in Paris, 2013.
- Heartfelt gratitude to Brother Gilles Berceville and Xavier Léger for the resume of Jacques Poujol's book.
- Note that Xavier Léger coordinates the following website that can be consulted: [lensversdudecor](http://lensversdudecor.com). There is first-hand information on aspects of varied Christian communities. □




 PAPER CLIP
NEWS

VISIT OF SISTERS IN POLAND

May 8 – 14, 2018

By: Siostry Dominikanki Misjonarki Jezusa I Maryi & Zgromadzenie Siostr Sw Dominika



The visit of Sr. Else-Britt Nilsen and Sr. Marie Therese Clement to the two Dominican Congregations native to Poland was indeed a joyful occasion for all. They first visited the Missionary Sisters of Mary in Warsaw and then proceeded by car to visit several communities and missions of the Zgromadzenie Siostr Sw Dominika (Congregation of Sisters of St. Dominic) and spent two days at their Mother House in Krakow.



The Missionaries of Mary whose article follows this brief introduction are mainly in Poland Ukraine, Latvia, Russia and Bolivia while the Sisters of St. Dominic are present in Poland and in several other countries (Belarus, Canada, Cameroon, France, Italy Russia Ukraine and the USA).

For both the sisters and for DSI, this was a long overdue meeting which holds much promise for our much fuller collaboration in the future.



The Congregation “Siostry Dominikanki Misjonarki Jezusa I Maryi” came to existence in 1932 in Warsaw. In 1948 it was aggregated to the Order of Preachers. Our aim is the sanctifying of the members, missionary work among pagans and in Russia as well as arousing the understanding of this apostolate's necessity in our country. There are 55 sisters living in 5 convents in Poland and 6 convents abroad (Russia, Latvia, Ukraine and Bolivia). We are occupied with pastoral work in parishes, we prepare people to sacraments and we take care of the sick and the poor.

On 8th and 9th May our General House in Zielonka was visited by Sr. Marie-Therese Clement and Sr. Else-Britt Nilsen from DSI. Our first common meeting gave us the opportunity to get to know the idea of the DSI and the activity of various dominican congregations all over the

Cont'd VISIT OF SISTERS IN POLAND...

world. We felt uplifted with the Order's richness and diversity. The meeting also gave us the chance to get to know better the sisters and to exchange our care about the communities that are in need of greater support. We assure of our prayers for those communities. We are happy that sisters participated in our daily schedule: in our prayers, in celebration our Sr. Daniela's name day and in spending time with the novices. Sr. Marie-Therese and s. Else-Britt

were very interested in our Congregation's activity which was shown to them in a form of a presentation. We also discussed our apostolic work, especially in Russia.

We would like to thank for the opportunity to enjoy our common charisma. Since now the DSI has specific faces for us, faces constantly smiling. We are hoping the experience of unity will also remain in sisters' hearts. □




 PAPER CLIP
NEWS

**THE JOY OF HAVING FR. BRUNO CADORÉ,
MASTER OF THE ORDER**
Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Sienna
Meeting of the Young Generations
Lisbone, Portugal - July 7 – 15 2018.

By: Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Sienna



Young religious of the Congregation of St. Catherine of Sienna, gathered at the Mother House of their congregation in São Domingos de Benfica, Lisbonne, Portugal, from 7 – 15 July 2018. Sisters from Albania, Angola, Brazil, Mozambique, Paraguay, Portugal and Timor-Leste united to experience the depth of the origins of their congregation and to read about their Foundress, Venerable Mother Teresa of Saldanha (1837-1916), in light of the signs of the times. During the conference, we were blessed by the presence of Fr. Felicissimo Martinez, op, who, with much simplicity and depth, helped us reflect on various aspects of our Dominican charism, namely, contemplative, communal and apostolic.

On July 14 and 15, we were fortunate to have Fr. Bruno Cadoré, Superior General of the Order, who shared on the missionary dimension of the Dominican Order. He explained that the primary mission is unique, following the model of Jesus Christ, the Son sent by the Father to announce the Kingdom.

The following are some excerpts from his presentations that captured our attention:

◆ **The Order of Preachers:** This is the Order of the friends of God whose aim it is to help

each individual become a friend of God. A friend is someone in whom I can confide fully and without fear - without fear of being judged or rejected. My friend sees me as an important person and does not focus on what I do or what I have done. This is how God operates. The people of God are the people

of the friends of God. Each one is unique and united to the Friends of God. We have to become friends of the world so that the world can, in turn, become the family of God. However, we sometimes live on the peripheries of the world.

◆ **‘Communion’** is an important word in the vocation of St. Dominic. In the vocation of St. Dominic and that of Jesus, ‘the table’ occupies an important place. Jesus’ mission finds meaning around the table. In the life of St. Dominic, everything started at the table. We believe that it is possible to speak a parable of communion. Not that we are perfect, for we are aware that we are human. However, the salvation of humanity is possible because of our own humanity. We must make communion possible, it is the mandate of the community. It is not easy to live in communion. It is not easy to make communion possible. However, they are both possible. Our vocation is to live communion concretely and not theoretically.

◆ **The Characteristics of the Order:** The Order has a vocation within the Church and

Cont'd THE JOY OF HAVING FR. BRUNO CADORÉ ...

to the Church. It finds expression in our ability to discern, to read the signs of the times, to exercise generosity in the apostolate and a deep spirituality.

How do we read the signs of the times?

We must observe everything that contributes to the destruction of humanity, in the context of justice and peace. We must preserve the dignity of humanity and the liberating spirit that makes this possible. We must pay attention to the various forms of dialogue between cultures and religions. We are not proprietors of the truth; we are in search of the truth. We should pay attention to the capacity of Christian communities to become evangelisers.

◆ **The Vocation of the Order:** The primary

vocation is evangelization, reading the signs of the times, contemplating God's grace, communal living, prayer and study. Religious life cannot be defined by what we do. We should find joy in living our lives with God.

- ◆ Brother Bruno officiated at the final mass where rhythm and the sounds of different countries were experienced and where we were able to give thanks to God for the vocations of our sisters who celebrated twenty five and fifty years of consecrated life.
- ◆ All the Sisters enjoyed the conference but they particularly appreciated the simple, humble and fraternal presence of the Master Thank you! We are sincerely grateful! □



GENERAL ASSEMBLY USMID

San Sisto, Rome, 19-21 October 2018



The participants were roughly thirty (30) sisters representing ten (10) congregations, the majority of whom are native to Italy. Both Sisters Marie Therese, DSP's International Coordinator and Else-Britt Nilsen, Continental Coordinator for Europe were present.

The presentation on the theme by Sr. Elisa Kidane, a Combonian Sister living in Rome, was very enriching and many described it as timely, referencing some of the realities of transculturalism requiring Dominican Sisters' engagement in both society and within congregations in Italy.

The Assembly of the Union of Dominican Major Superiors of Italy (USMID) met over the weekend of 19-21 October 2018 under the theme « Dal Noi, Voi, Loro all'Ubuntu. Pratiche di sororità inedite, sovvertendo linguaggi e atteggiamenti escludenti». **English:** *From us, you, they to "Ubuntu." new Practices of Sorority Subverting Exclusionary Language and Attitudes.*

The last day of the Assembly consisted mainly in the review of the Statutes and the election of USMID's new President and Council. Sr. Marie Jean Mouton-Brady the out-going president of two consecutive terms was thanked for her selfless service and generosity to USMID.

Cont'd GENERAL ASSEMBLY USMID ...



She was succeeded by **Sr. Martina Damiani**, General Councilor of the Missionarie della Scuola and four (4) Councilors: **Sr. Giacomina Tagliaferri**, General Prioress of the Congregation of San Tommaso D'Aquino, **Sr. M. Elvira Bonacorsi**, General Pri-

oress of the Congregation of Dominicans of Santa Caterina da Siena, **Sr. Cristina Simoni**, General Prioress of Beata Imelda (also the secretary) and **Sr. Maria Silvia Agnoletto**, General Prioress of Dominican Missionarie di San Sisto.

The Assembly culminated in the celebration of the Eucharist presided by Fr. Gianni Festa, O.P. Postulator General of the Order. ▣



PAST EVENTS

Sept. 28-30

ANNUAL MEETING FOR YOUNG SISTERS IN SPAIN (DSE- SEDEP)

Young European Sisters were together in their annual meeting in Spain under the Theme: *"Human Rights in our Preaching"*.

October 1-4

"SACRA PREDICATIO" ENGLISH- SPEAKING EUROPEAN COLLOQUIUM ON PREACHING

This course was held in Cologne, Germany from October 1-4 under the Theme: "Our Challenge in a Fragile Europe". Hosted by Dominican Preaching Network and the cooperation of Institute für Pastoralthomiletic (Province of teutonia, Germany), Aquinas Institute of Theology (Province of St. Albert the Great, USA), and the Institute of Preaching (Province of Philippines).

Two Keynotes were presented: Mrs Annette Schavan (Rome, Italy) German Ambassador to the Holy See and Fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP (Oxford, UK) Former Master of the Order. Several sisters and friars presented and facilitated workshops on various related topics. Several Sisters and Friars presented workshops on various related topics.

October 3-5

DOMINICAN SISTERS CONFERENCE

This Meeting was held in Maryknoll, USA

October 4-10

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LAY DOMINICAN

The third Congress of the Dominican Laity was held from October 3-10, 2018 at Fatima, Portugal. In fact, in the history Dominican Laity, they have had two prior congresses: The first in 1985 in Montreal, Canada and the second in 2006 in Pilar, Argentina.

This Assembly counted one hundred and thirty-five participants from 40 countries. The Master of the Order, fr. Bruno Cadoré was present as well as several members of the General Curia. Dominican Sisters International was represented by Sr. Cecelia Espenilla.

Cont'd PAST EVENTS

The Theme of the Congress was “Justice, Peace and Care of Creation” to which we were sensitised by several conference presenters. The bulk of the work was conducted by commissions that proposed different resolutions which, after having been voted by the Assembly, will be presented to the Master of the Order to be rendered effective for the renewal of Dominican Lay Fraternities.

The Assembly was an important moment in the life of the Dominican Laity who wish to better respond to their vocation within the Order and in the Church.

October 11—16

THE INTERNATIONAL DOMINICAN COMMISSION OF JUSTICE & PEACE (IDCJP) MEETING

This Meeting was held in Rome from October 11-16 at the Teresian General House “Enrico d’Ossò”. There were 22 appointed members of the Commission representing the five global Regions/ Continents of Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and North America Dominicans U.N. Representatives and the five branches of the Dominican Family: Friars, Nuns, Sisters, Lay and the Youth.

October 28-30

ASIA PACIFIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN GOA, INDIA

This Meeting was held at St Joseph Vaz Spiritual Renewal Centre, Cruz dos Milagres, Goa, India under the Theme: "Hopes and Challenges Concerning Dominican Preaching in the Asia-Pacific Region".

Srs. Marie Therese Clement, International Coordinator of DSI, Cecilia Espenilla O.P., International Promoter for Justice & Peace, and Bernadette Kiley, O.P. Continental Coordinator for Asia– Pacific participated.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 3 - 7

10TH ASIA PACIFIC DOMINICAN FAMILY JUSTICE AND PEACE CONFERENCE IN SRI - LANKA

This Meeting will be held at Subodhi Institute of Integral Education, Colombo, Sri Lanka under the theme *“Invigorating the relationship of the Justice and Peace Promoters and Strengthening the Promotion of Justice and Peace in Asia Pacific.”*

This Meeting will be facilitated by Fr. Gallardo A. Bombase, Jr. O.P. JP- Promoter of Asia-Pacific Region and Sr. Maria Luz P. Mission, O.P. DSI-JP Promoter for Asia-Pacific and Sr. Cecile Espenilla, O.P. International Promoter of JPIC-DSI

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