

*Cloistered Dominican Nuns*  
*Monastery of the Infant Jesus - Lufkin, Texas*  
*celebrate Jubilee 800 of the Order of Preachers*



Sr. Mary John



Sr. Mary Jeremiah



Sr. Mary Anne



Sr. Mary Magdalene



Sr. Mary Veronica



Sr. Maria Rosario



Sr. Maria Cabrini



Sr. Mary Thomas

## GO AND PREACH!

1216 - 2016

The 800th Jubilee of the Order of Preachers began on November 7, 2015 and will conclude on January 21, 2017. Eight centuries ago, St. Dominic travelled to Rome to meet with Pope Honorius III and obtain approval of the new religious order he was organizing. St. Dominic saw that doctrinal preaching was the key to bringing people to Christ--people who were being lost to heresy and religious confusion--and so he asked the Pope for permission to found an Order that would be dedicated to preaching the truth of the Gospel throughout the world. Pope Honorius III granted his request and the Order of Preachers was officially founded on December 22, 1216. Of course, the nuns of the Order of Preachers were founded ten years earlier and were praying for the success of the Order before, during and after its official foundation!

What does it mean to celebrate an 800th Jubilee year? For Dominicans this is a time first to look back and remember what the Lord has done for us. We are grateful for the Order, for our many saints and martyrs who serve as examples for us, for the traditions which have been handed down over the centuries, for the vocations which have come, and most of all for the Lord's confidence in us and His faithfulness over these 800 years. Second, we look forward with hope, confidence, and humility as we continue to seek out new ways of preaching the Gospel with the passion, creativity and joy that our first brothers and sisters had. God has given us this gift of our Dominican vocation, not only to benefit ourselves, but to share with everyone the blessings of the Gospel of Christ.

Today there are four geographical provinces of Dominican friars in the United States. Our monastery in Lufkin belongs to the province of St. Martin de Porres, also known as the Southern Province. We are fortunate to have representatives from each of the four major branches of what we call the Dominican Family: the friars, nuns, sisters and laity. The friars are represented by our chaplain; the sisters by the Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of Fatima from Puerto Rico, currently stationed in Palestine, TX (about forty-five minutes from our monastery) and the laity by the St. Thomas Aquinas Dominican Laity Chapter which meets at our monastery every month. The Dominican Laity are involved in many activities around the area. They also serve as Mass lectors at the monastery on the first Saturday of each month and join us for the Liturgy of the Hours when possible.



Sr. Maria Guadalupe



Sr. Mary Christine



Sr. Miriam



Sr. Bernadette Marie



Sr. Mary Margaret



Sr. Mary Regina



Sr. Mary Sybillina



Sr. Mary Rose



Sr. Marie Augustine



Sr. Irma



Sr. Mary Guise



Sr. Mary Annunciata



Sr. Mary Dominic



Sr. Mary Gabriel



Cloe

## CELEBRATING!

On November 7, 2015, the Dominican Family in the Lufkin area came together to celebrate the opening of the Jubilee Year. All four branches were present and together we had a festive Mass, honoring all the saints of the Dominican Order as well as the Jubilee. The Mass began with a procession and we all joined together in singing the Jubilee Hymn, "Laudare, Benedicere, Praedicare" (To Praise, To Bless, To Preach) accompanied by organ, guitar, and African drum. Our chaplain, Fr. Marcos Ramos, OP, was the main celebrant and delivered the homily. Toward the end of the Mass, we had a ritual of light, in which candles were lit from the central Jubilee candle and given to representatives of the Dominican Family. This is a symbol of the fire of God's love that we joyfully pass on to others through our preaching and our ministry of prayer. We concluded Mass with the Dominican "Salve Regina", traditionally sung in Dominican houses at the end of Compline (Night Prayer) and at the deathbed of a brother or sister. After Mass a meal was provided for our guests and then we brought our celebration to a close with a festive visit in the parlor.



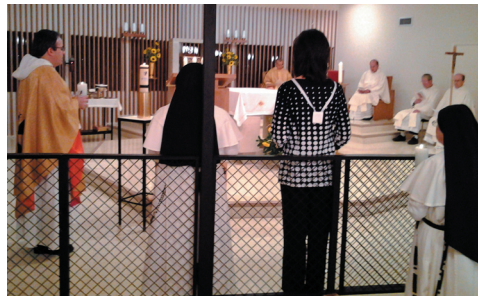
Singing the Jubilee Hymn



Dr. Matthey Rowley, Moderator of our Dominican Laity Chapter, proclaims the 1st Reading



Deacon Jesus Reyes assists at Communion



Representatives of four branches of the Order



Some of our lay Dominicans



Our Sisters (and chaplain) from Puerto Rico, entertain us with songs about St. Dominic.

Fr. Bruno Cañoré, OP, the Master of the Order, recently wrote a letter in which he said, "Dominic wanted to make it clear to the Pope when he was asking him to confirm the first fruits of his intuition that the fire of the Gospel must first set alight the existence of each Preacher: they were to "be" preachers. It is this inner fire that one day gave us the audacity to ask for the grace to devote our whole life to the Word." As nuns of the Order of Preachers, we too devote our lives to that Word. The Fundamental Constitution of the Nuns tells us, "The nuns are to seek, ponder and call upon Him in solitude so that the word proceeding from the mouth of God may not return to Him empty, but may accomplish those things for which it was sent (cf. Is. 55:10)." We are, as our Constitutions state, "commissioned by God primarily for prayer" but we also "listen to the word, celebrate it, and keep it in [our] hearts, and in this way proclaim the Gospel of God by the example of [our] life." May this "fire of the Gospel" set each of us alight in this year dedicated to the Mercy of God, and may each of us proclaim this merciful Word of God to a world looking anxiously for something—looking, whether they realize it or not, for God.