



MISSIONARIES IN ACTION

DOMINICAN MISSION FOUNDATION

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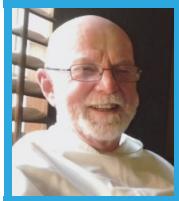
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Come, Follow Me

~Matthew 4:19



There was a clear sense that what I heard in my heart was no human voice, nor was it just an idea of my own.

Christ was calling me to serve him as a priest.

~Pope John Paul II

Dear Mission Friends:

Each year from late spring to early fall, I wend my way throughout the western United States preaching at various parishes to appeal for support of our missions. Not only am I grateful for the opportunity to spread awareness of our missions and their needs, but I

am delighted to meet and visit with the parishioners, some of whom I may even know. I enjoy the uniqueness of each town and each parish, but it is their commonalities which I find the most interesting and affirming. Lately, parishioners everywhere have inquired about the future of our Dominican province, specifically regarding the general scarcity of vocations to the priestly and religious life.



Our novices and Fr. Rosevear posing with Fr. Bart de la Torre after Mass in our Mexicali Chapel of San Martin de Porres and San Juan Macias. Brother Ian (right) gave the homily.

And so it is with much joy and gratitude that I announce that God still continues to send dedicated young men to our province to begin the formation process that leads to becoming Dominican priests or brothers.

Our current group of novices, who are in the first year of Dominican formation, recently visited our Mexicali mission with their novice master, Fr. Anthony Rosevear, O.P. to have a glimpse into the life and ministry of our missionaries serving here.

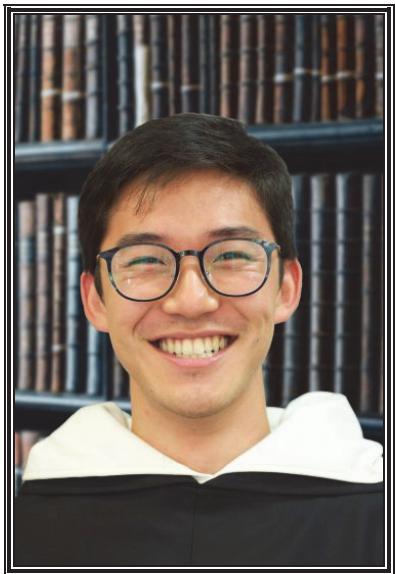
This month I wish to introduce our novices to you so that you too are blessed with joy and gratitude—and reassurance that Dominicans will go on.

The novices and Fr. Rosevear being warmly welcomed by our parishioners.

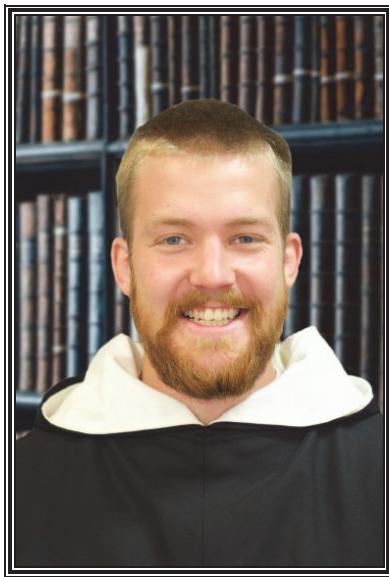


In Christ's Peace,
Fr. Martin de Porres Walsh, O.P.

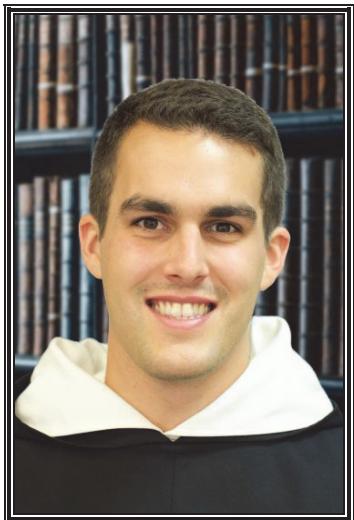
These pictures and profiles are courtesy of an article from the Province website (www.opwest.org) on 10-6-16, which states that the novices “look forward to giving witness to the kingdom of God as they continue their formation as Dominican preachers.” Each one, as you’ll see, is uniquely “blessed with different talents and interests,” from musical arts and science to sports and humor!



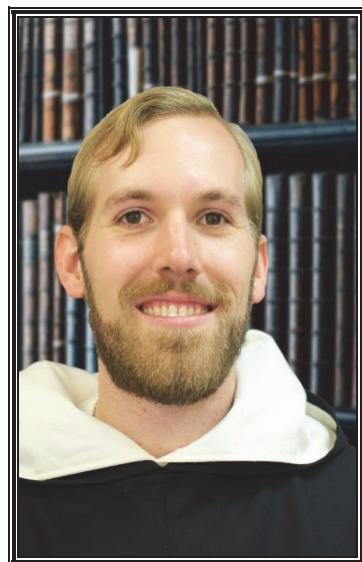
Br. Andrew Thomas Kang comes to us from Fullerton, CA. He has a B.S. in Computer Science from University of California San Diego. A parishioner at St. Dominic's Church in San Francisco before entering the Order, he enjoys rock climbing and he plays the ukulele and the guitar.



Br. Paul Maria Müllner is from Boise, Idaho, but was born in Switzerland. He has a Mechanical Engineering degree from Boise State University. He worked as a gold miner, and enjoys Nutella hazelnut spread (which was developed by a devout Catholic family).



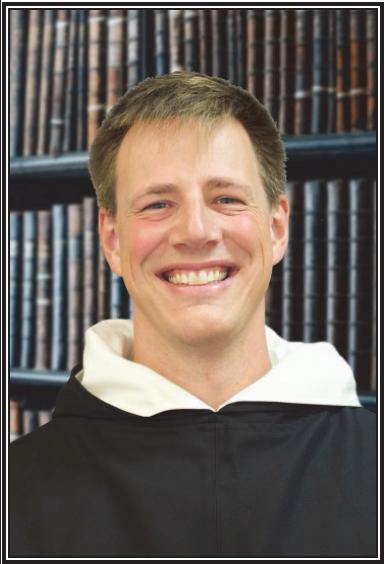
Br. Ian Mary Parelius is from Petaluma, CA. He has a B.A. in Philosophy and Integral Studies from St. Mary's College of California, and an M.T.S. from Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. He served as a FOCUS missionary before becoming a Dominican. He has been playing the piano for the last 15 years, and is currently learning how to play the organ. He is considered the practical joker of his class.



Br. Paschal Strader is from Yucca, CA. He has a B.S. in Computer Science and Physics from California State University San Bernardino, and from University of California Santa Barbara, an M.A. in Physics and a Ph.D. in Experimental Astrophysics. Of course he enjoys stargazing, especially looking at open clusters like the Pleiades. He is known to be very creative and he values the many friendships he has developed over the years.



Br. Athanasius Thompson is from La Habra, CA. He has a B.A. in Philosophy from California State University Los Angeles. He enjoys playing the blues and classic rock on bass guitar, and describes himself as an “ancient language nerd.”



Br. John Winkowitsch is from Cut Bank, Montana. He has a B.A. in Liberal Arts from Thomas Aquinas College, as well as a Ph.L. and Ph.D in Philosophy from Catholic University of America. He studied karate for five years, enjoys games of strategy, and is good at billiards. Before entering the Order, Br. John's students referred to him as Batman because he was both the coolest and most intimidating teacher around.



Left, the novices and Fr. Rosevear arriving at our parish church of Santa Maria de Guadalupe; and below, visiting the chapel of San Juan Diego in the desert.



I am often asked, especially by young people, why I became a priest...I must begin by saying that it is impossible to explain entirely. For it remains a mystery, even to myself. How does one explain the ways of God? Yet, I know that, at a certain point in my life, I became convinced that Christ was saying to me what he had said to thousands before me: 'Come, follow me!'

~Pope John Paul II

Fr. Miguel Rolland (with hat) explaining the history of the local cemetery where our parishioners are buried.



The novices visiting homes in our parish.





Left, the novices being hosted by the Franciscan Friars of Mexicali. Middle left, looking toward the United States from our parish on the Mexican side of the border.

We must pray so that the hearts of these young people may ... become free ... from the idolatry of vanity, the idolatry of pride, the idolatry of power, the idolatry of money.

~Pope Francis



Father of mercy, ...grant us Christian communities which are alive, fervent and joyous, which are fonts of fraternal life, and which nurture in the young the desire to consecrate themselves to you and to the work of evangelization. Sustain these communities in their commitment to offer appropriate vocational catechesis and ways of proceeding towards each one's particular consecration. Grant the wisdom needed for vocational discernment, so that in all things the greatness of your merciful love may shine forth.

~Pope Francis



Left, Fr. Stephen Maria Lopez, O.P., our province's Director of Vocations, at a conference organized by FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students).

Fr. Stephen Maria can be contacted at:

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