

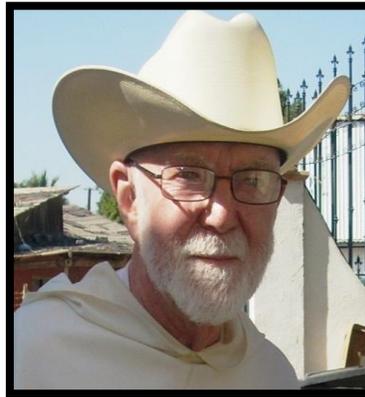
Passing the Torch



Dear Mission Friends:

In our May 2003 newsletter, Fr. Martin de Porres Walsh, O.P. wrote, “It is a delight at the age of 65 to begin this new role of Director of the Dominican Mission Foundation. I am thrilled to have this opportunity to share with you the news of our missionaries and the people they, and you, serve.” And now, this past July, after 19 years of expertly guiding our office, visiting and actively serving at a few of our missions, and preaching all over the western states about our mission ministries, Father’s tenure has deservedly come to an end.

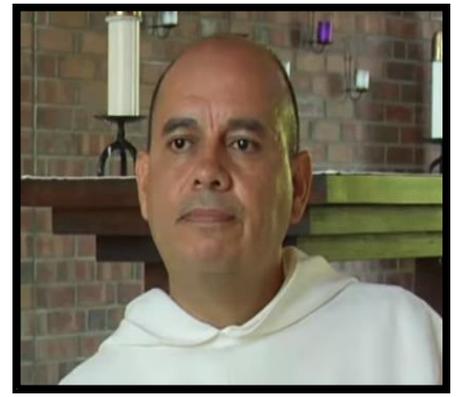
*Muchas gracias y vaya con Dios,
Padre Martín.*



Fr. Martin de Porres Walsh, O.P.
*Director, Dominican Mission Foundation
2003-2022*

Long before his 1969 ordination as a Dominican priest, Fr. Martin had found his passion working for social justice in Mexico. After graduating from the University of San Francisco in 1961, he joined a small group of Catholics concerned with Third World human rights and spent summers working among rural villagers in Mexico. The group came to be called the *International Student Worker Corps* and later *Amigos Anonimous*, as it grew into a nationwide program pairing college students studying social work with Mexico’s poor and oppressed communities. Father looked forward to those rigorous summers in rural Mexico, particularly in remote mountain villages of Mexicali and Chiapas, even while consumed with his formation studies during the year.

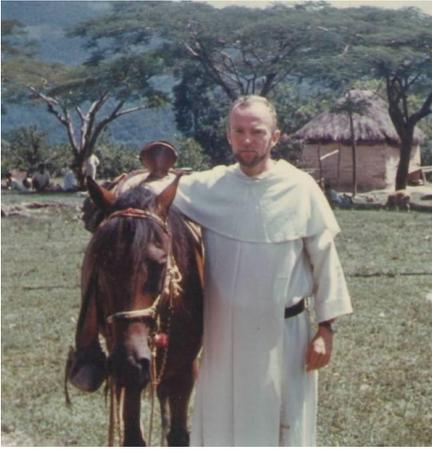
*Bienvenido y Dios le bendiga,
Padre Jordan.*



Fr. Jordan Bradshaw, O.P.
*Director, Dominican Mission Foundation
2022-*

After his ordination and then a decade of assignments on this side of the border (including some summers serving in the remote wilderness of Alaska), Fr. Martin was thrilled to be sent to Mexico, where he served eight years at our mission in his beloved Mexicali, ministering to the abject poor in the villages surrounding this teeming city. Then he was called to the Bay Area once again, serving eight years as pastor of St. Dominic Parish in San Francisco and then another eight years as Vocation Director for our Western Dominican Province.

Then in 2003 he was named Director of the Dominican Mission Foundation, a position which enabled him to incorporate his passion for serving the desperately poor



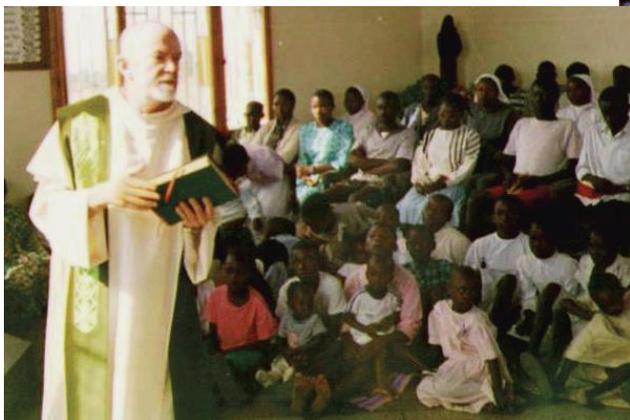
with the administrative duties at which he had become so adept. As Director, Fr. Martin spent many of his spring and summer weekends darting around to parishes throughout the West to which we had been assigned mission appeals. More often than not, he heard confessions and celebrated all their Masses, from sunrise to sunset, in alternating Spanish and English, frequently alone, the staff having left for the weekend. His primary task, however, was to preach the homilies, spreading awareness of the needs of those in our mission areas. He would provide parishioners with an overview of our projects and then focus and expand on a particular area of great need. All of the proceeds from the parishes' second collections would go directly to support our missions.

A few years ago Father was thrilled to be able to move back to the Mexicali parish that he had always held close to his heart, *Santa Maria de Guadalupe*. It would be his official residence now and he was named Parochial Vicar while retaining his post as Director of the Mission Foundation, regularly visiting our Mission Office in San Francisco to perform his administrative duties in between preaching as many mission appeals that he could fit in.

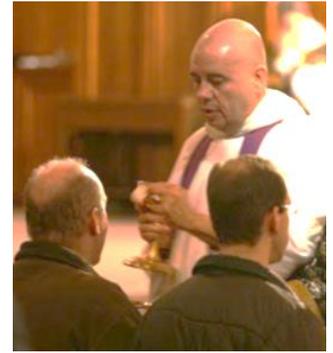
It is due to Fr. Martin's guidance and legendary unstoppable energy and enthusiasm that the spiritual health and the quality of life of the desperately poor and downtrodden in our mission areas have greatly improved.

Of our generous and compassionate donors, Fr. Martin once wrote, *"How much good work has been achieved through your selfless and loving support and prayers! While the needs of all our mission areas often seem overwhelming and never-ending, indeed while we all despair at times that tremendous suffering is still very present in so many parts of the world, I wish to acknowledge all of you who have made countless lives a little better and their sun shine a little brighter."* He could very well have—though he never would have—been talking about himself!

But he did often describe how much he enjoyed keeping busy: *"I'm always on the go. Much of my time [was] divided between my home base in Mexicali and our mission office in San Francisco. On my 80th birthday, a couple of [much younger] fellow Dominicans asked me about my plans now that I was eligible to slow down and put my feet up. I responded that my only plans were to keep going. Did they actually think I would retire? I might consider slowing down, but I honestly wouldn't know how to stop altogether, nor would I want to."*



Fr. Martin continues, “I admit that it does take more and more effort to stay healthy and active, but put my feet up? Never, if I don’t have to!” Just since Fr. Martin passed the Mission Director’s baton to Fr. Jordan Bradshaw, O.P. in July, he has moved back up to San Francisco, had two long-delayed surgeries, and begun an invaluable role as Mission Office consultant to Fr. Jordan, Nancy, and me. His official jobs include hearing confessions and celebrating Mass for the Spanish-speaking at St. Dominic’s and attending to the Shrine of St. Jude pilgrims. He asks only that we “*please add this elder missionary*” to our prayers, that he may continue to approach his ministries with enthusiasm and zeal.



Indeed, Fr. Jordan has some never-still sandals to fill, but when I heard he was a habitual power-walker, and that one of his favorite quotes (from St. John Paul II) is, “*Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure,*” I thought he might have a chance. And since then I’ve seen him in action. He jumps right in and he doesn’t stop! He rolls up his sleeves and throws away, cleans, and organizes; he plans ahead, asks smart questions, and calls meetings—always short ones because he likes to keep moving. He is devising new, efficient methods for fundraising and building our donor list. He was ready and eager to take all the mission appeals he could possibly fit in, without a thought of asking for help.

Fr. Jordan was born in 1961 in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico and was raised across the border in Nogales, Arizona. A blessing for him—and us—is that Spanish was his first language. Father remembers having a deep, early desire to become a priest, and while studying psychology at the University of Arizona, he was introduced to the Order of Preachers. He entered the Western Dominican Province in 1983 and, after several years of formation studies, was ordained a priest in 1992. It was during his first assignment at Holy Trinity in Phoenix that he saw first-hand

the Latino community’s profound hunger, not only to learn the faith and celebrate its traditions, but also to be heard as a vital part of the parish and not only as ‘the people who attended the noon Spanish Mass.’ Father also served in Washington, California, and most recently in Washington again where he just finished a twelve-year post as Director of Campus Ministry at University of Washington’s Prince of Peace Newman Center in Seattle.

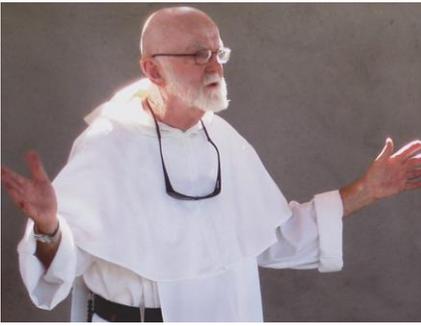


His farewell address to his donors there reveals a humility, thoughtfulness, and faith, all of which will serve him well in his new position as Dominican Mission Foundation Director. “*Like so very many of you,*” he said, “*we did not know that our country would be forced to hit the ‘pause button’ and confront an unprecedented set of challenges. This dramatic change we are all experiencing in this moment can feel threatening to the traditions of closeness that feed our souls;*

An example of Fr. Martin’s rigorous appeal weekends.

“I’d been assigned to St. Mary of the Assumption on the outskirts of Park City, UT, along with alternating Masses at St. Lawrence Mission, an old historic downtown chapel. I had said the Sat. evening and early Sun. morning Masses at St. Mary’s, driven downtown to say the 8:45 am mission Mass and had just enough time to get back to St. Mary’s for its next Mass. I’d learned my way around and I was on a roll! Upon leaving I was delighted to see the snow, but once in the car, which was dangerously slipping and sliding, I was blinded by the storm and got lost, arriving quite late. Another priest had begun Mass for me, but I finished it, drove back downtown for the mission’s last Mass, and back again to St. Mary’s for one more there. Then I drove through the night toward the Mexicali sun and collapsed in my bed for a day and a half.”





however, there is a bright light ahead because we have experienced the power of connection, love, and inspiration that strengthen our relationships in new ways. With the help of our Lord, we must continue to work diligently to make thoughtful decisions about our programs in response to constantly shifting challenges. We are truly grateful for your commitment and your generous gifts, now and over time.”

Regarding his new position, Fr. Jordan says, “I look forward to learning about our various mission areas, to preaching as many of the mission appeals as I am able, and to meeting many of you in my travels.” He has already had a head start—while working as Vicar for the provincial, he was “blessed to see firsthand what my Dominican brothers [were] doing with and among the people,” visiting and celebrating Mass several times in Mexicali and also spending time at our missions in Kenya and Guatemala.

And certainly Father’s experience in working with college-aged youth in campus ministry will give him a huge advantage in encouraging vocations among those youth he encounters during his mission appeals as well as during his visits to our various missions.

His personal discernment process will be especially invaluable to understanding and gently encouraging that of others. He recalls: “My early desire to be a priest was something I kept to myself through high school. Other than God, I believed that I had no one to speak to about religion, life, or priesthood. Even my parish priest or the youth minister was out of the question, but I knew there was something going on within me and my soul. It wasn’t until college that I really began to pursue my vocation, helped along by my Religious Studies professor, Fr. Bob Burns, O.P. I soon got to know other Dominicans on campus and was increasingly drawn to their charism of preaching and proclamation of the Gospel as lived in the thirteenth century by St. Dominic, who understood the necessity to preach the true Faith to others.”

And the ‘mission’ of our Mission Foundation—which has been maintained by each of its Directors with his own individual approach and techniques—is that to be economically transformative and regenerative, faith must be brought down to earth to connect with the practical matters of daily life. We endeavor to improve the quality of life, spiritually and materially, of those in our mission areas who are poor and oppressed involuntary victims of their conditions. We feed the soul and the body, the results of which can be one and the same. Gandhi once said, “There are so many hungry people that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.”



Regardless of one’s preferred style—indeed maybe because of the Dominicans’ notable diversity—the Order of Preachers’ charism has proven itself over time to be compassionate and merciful, unobtrusive and respectful, good and true, paving the way for our Mission Foundation to play a major role in strengthening the position of the Church and the growth of vocations in our mission areas. **Certainly our Directors and our missionaries come away from their “jobs” with that rare gift of heightened insight into the collective human spirit reserved for true servants of God.**

In loving gratitude to Fr. Martin, all our Directors and missionaries over the years, and our selfless supporters; and in confident anticipation of Fr. Jordan’s tenure,
Lesley Warnshuis

Directors *Dominican Mission Foundation*

Fr. Mark McPhee	1964-67
Fr. Gerald Ehler	1967-69
Fr. Hubert Francis Ward	1969-74
Fr. Joseph Asturias	1974-95
Fr. Martin de Porres Walsh	1995-96
Fr. Donald Bramble	1996-02
Fr. Martin Diaz	2002-03
Fr. Martin de Porres Walsh	2003-22
Fr. Jordan Bradshaw	2022-

Currently we support missions in Mexicali and Chiapas in Mexico; Rabinal, Guatemala; Ayene, Equatorial Guinea; Erbil and Mosul in Iraq; the Alaskan wilderness; Bayamon, Puerto Rico; and on a temporary emergency basis, Ukraine.