TO PRAISE

TO BLESS

TO PREACH

VERITAS
50th Anniversary of the Dominican Presence in Pakistan.

22nd December
When the man of God, Dominic was in the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome, praying fervently for the preservation and expansion of the Order that God had founded through him, suddenly he saw in an interior vision the glorious princes Peter and Paul coming towards him. Peter handed him a staff, Paul a book, and together they spoke these words: “Go and Preach, for you have been chosen for this ministry”. Immediately he saw as in a single moment of time his sons dispersed throughout the whole world, going two by two and preaching the Word of God to the nations.

Constantine of Orvieto

St. Dominic of Guzman

Born at Calaruega in Spain about the year 1170. He studied theology at Palencia University and became a Canon of the Cathedral of Osma. He preached against the Albigensian heresy and, because of the example of his own life, his preaching bore great fruit. In order to carry on and promote this work, he gathered around him a group of companions and founded the ORDER OF PREACHERS (Dominicans). He died on 6th August, 1221 at Bologna in Italy.

«Domenico fu detto, ed io ne parlo si come de l’agricola che Cristo elesse all’orto suo per aiutarlo... Foi con dottrina e con volere insieme con l’officio apostolico si mosse quasi torrente ch’alta vena preme, E negli sterpi eretici percossi l’impeto suo, più vivamente quivi dove le resistenze eran più grosse.»

Dante, Paradiso, XII: 70-72; 97-102
To speak of the history of a Mission is but to relive in faith the mysterious action of God who, like the perfect weaver he is, weaves the warp and woof of the Church with the living threads of his creatures, making use of the characteristics of each one of them to the benefit and the harmony of the whole.

It is in 1931 that the Dominican thread was inserted in the warp of the Pakistani Church. Let us now consider the human means God used to realize this detail of his Plan of Salvation.

At the beginning of 1931, the Pontifical Congregation 'De Propaganda Fide' decided to split into two the then too vast Diocese of Lahore and offered the Dominican Order the chance of opening a Mission there. The Master General of the Dominicans, Fr. Gillet, referred the matter to the Provincial of the Roman Province, Fr. Fanfan. At that time the Province had no mission. Fr. Fanfan, in his turn, sought the opinion of the eldest among his young Fathers, Fr. Benedict Cialeo, who was then teaching philosophy at the Lateran University. And through Fr. Cialeo God spoke the word of wisdom which gave birth to the Dominican Mission in Pakistan. "It is the best choice," Fr. Cialeo said, "because it has not been made by us ... accept!" It is to be noted that Fr. Cialeo had for many years nourished in his heart and expressed to his superiors his desire to be a missionary. Even the seemingly insurmountable difficulty of the lack of Missions in his Province, had never shaken his hope of realizing one day this desire of his; facts proved how right he was in trusting Providence. In fact, he was just the one to lead the first group of Dominican Fathers who left Italy for Pakistan on 30th November 1931. The group was composed of Fr. Benedict Cialeo, Fr. Philip Fochetti, Fr. Peter Santarelli and Bro. Albert Barbieri. When God's plans are being realized, there Mary is: the first group reached Multan on 22nd December, Feast of the Blessed Mary's Patronage on the Dominican Order.

One of the first difficulties the new missionaries had to tackle was that of the language or, better, of the languages as they had to learn English, Urdu and Punjabi; an endeavour which asked for a great deal of patience, courage and hope, the whole mixed with abundant sense of humour. During the first months of their stay they fought with English and Urdu, then the small group was scattered: they went to the villages to learn Punjabi on the spot. Fr. Cialeo and Fr. Santarelli were sent to the new missionary centre of Gojra. In August 1933 Fr. Cialeo went to Khushpur. The end of 1934 finds him Parish Priest in Lylarpur.

In the meantime, a second group of Fathers had arrived in November 1932: Fr. Raymond Diaccini (who died only two months later), Fr. Bernardino Di Cola, Fr. Pius Corbellini and Bro. Dominic Lippo.

The young Dominican branch thrived so well in the Pakistani soil that in 1936 it could be detached from the Diocese of Lahore, the civil Division of Multan went to form a new Prefecture, with Fr. Cialeo as its Apostolic Prefect. The Prefecture comprised eight missionary centres: Multan, Sahiwal, Chak 10, Khushpur, Gojra, Lylarpur, Francisabad and Montgomerywala, with a total of 13 Fathers.

After two years, Divine Providence, with the same quick style which had characterized the birth of the Dominican Mission, guided persons and events towards the change of the Prefecture into a Diocese. It so happened that in 1939, Pope Pius XII desired to consecrate twelve missionary bishops from all over the world, Italy included. Those responsible informed the Pope that there was no Diocese that could be given to an Italian bishop. Pius XII answered, "If there is no Diocese, we will make one!" At this, the secretary for India, who knew the Dominicans in Multan, retorted quickly, "Let us make Multan a Diocese!" said and done. Because of the lack of time, the matter was quickly dealt with. Without any previous consultation, a telegram was despatched to Mons. Cialeo with the shocking news that he had been nominated Bishop of Multan.

He travelled to Rome where, along with the other eleven chosen ones, he was consecrated in St. Peter's by Pius XII, on 23rd October 1939, Feast of Christ the King. He took possession of the Diocese in March 1940.

The Second World War was already bringing death and destruction to the whole of Europe. Also the young Diocese had to mature by passing through a period of trials, sharing indirectly in the suffering caused by war. In fact, in 1942, 15 Italian Fathers were sent to concentration camps in India; only 3 Dominicans remained in the mission: 2 Indians and 1 Maltese. The Dioceses of Rawalpindi and Karachi came to the rescue sending 8 Priests. The situation lasted for several years: eight Fathers were released in 1944, but Bishop Cialeo was kept in India till March 1946, when he was allowed to rejoin his flock, although his repatriation was still "pending". With his characteristic strong faith he resumed fully his duties, rich of all the graces drawn from those long years spent in prayer, study and manual work.

Year after year, the Christianity grew in numbers and in organization: schools, orphanages, boarding houses, hospital and dispensaries were opened to the great benefit not only of the Christians but also of the Muslims.

In 1956, on the invitation of Mgr. Cialeo, the Dominican Fathers of the American Province of St. Joseph came to Multan.

In 1960, the Dominican Mission found itself at a new cross-roads: too vast an area and too large a number of Christians to be cared for; as for Lahore...
In 1931, so it was then for Multan Diocese: it was split into two, giving rise to the Diocese of Lyallpur.

When, in 1940, the Diocese of Multan had come into being, the Catholics were about 24,000. At the time of erection of Lyallpur Diocese, Multan Diocese counted about 12,000 Catholics and the new Diocese about 50,000 of them. In 1981 they will be respectively about 30,000 and 82,000.

The American Dominican, Fr. Sheerer, became Bishop of Multan, while to Bishop Cialeo was given the duty to start again almost from nothing in Lyallpur. Thanks to his strong faith, his hard work and the cooperation of all, in a short time the new Diocese took shape in all fields, not least of the necessary buildings: a simple but functional Bishop’s House replaced the old small house once residence of the Parish Priest, and a beautiful cathedral, sprung up as from a dream, was blessed in 1965 and consecrated in 1969.

Followed a period of years of continuous spiritual and material expansion and consolidation. New Dominicans came from Italy while the number of local Priests and Religious increased. All the branches of what is now-a-days called the ‘Dominican Family’ started to be more abundantly represented. Besides the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Sienna, Teachers and Nurses, who had been the first ones to come in 1934, other Congregations of Dominican Sisters joined the Mission: in 1948 the Missionaries of the school, another Italian Congregation; in 1958 the American Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of the Rosary (Sparkhill); in 1959 a group of Dominican Nuns from Los Angeles, who opened the Monastery of the Angels in Karachi; in 1962 the Dominican Sisters of Malta.

In their concern for the needs of the Diocese, Bishop Cialeo first and then Bishop Andreotti opened the doors of the Diocese also to other communities: some already working in other parts of Pakistan, as for the F.M.M. Sisters who came to Renala in 1947 and to Lyallpur in 1948, in 1959 the La Salle Brothers came to help in the important field of education. Later on, in 1970 it will be the turn of the O.M.I. Fathers, in 1974 of the Holy Family Sisters and in 1980 of the Franciscan Sisters of Malta. It would take too long to mention all the various foreign diocesan Priests who joined the Mission all along these 50 years.

But let us go back to another important day in the history of the Diocese of Lyallpur, as now the history of the original Dominican Mission intermingles with that of his Diocese. On 29th June 1972, Fr. Paul Andreotti, o. p., was consecrated Auxiliary Bishop of Lyallpur. His personal talents and the strong bonds of love and esteem that tied him to Bishop Cialeo, made of Bishop Andreotti a very good helper to an aging but always strong and active Bishop Cialeo; this latter, having reached the age limit, retired on 14th September 1976, while Bishop Andreotti took over as Bishop of Lyallpur (later on renamed Faisalabad).

But for the Patriarch, i.e. for Bishop Cialeo, to retire meant to continue working hard, although with different responsibilities. In fact, when in 1978 the Parish of Renala Khurd ran the risk of remaining without Parish Priest, at the worried interrogation of Bishop Andreotti, ‘Whom shall I send?’ Bishop Cialeo answered, as Isaiah did, ‘Here I am, send me!’ and off he went to Renala where he took up the new job with the zeal of a fresh missionary.

We have reached another very important day in the history of the Diocese of Faisalabad, a date that could be called a ‘crowning’ date for the activity of the Dominicans in Pakistan: 9th January 1981, Fr. John Joseph was consecrated Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Faisalabad. Fr. John Joseph had been the first Punjabi Diocesan Priest to be ordained in 1960 and then he became the first Punjabi Catholic Bishop of Pakistan.

But there is still another day, a very memorable one: 10th September 1981; on that day the Minor Seminary was opened in Faisalabad, with a young Pakistani diocesan Priest as its Rector. Isn’t this a sign of hope and a pledge of continuity for the Diocese?

We are now at the end of our effort to walk through these past 50 years, pointing out here and there the main events which, like stepping stones, have brought us all the way from 1931 to 1981. But the real achievements as well as the failures, the joys as well as the sorrows are hidden in God’s love and mercy; these same love and mercy will surely continue to be the strength of the whole Pakistani Church and of this particular portion of it for which St. Dominic’s Sons and Daughters have been channels of Truth:

‘DOMINIC WAS A LIGHT THAT I OFFERED TO THE WORLD THROUGH MARY AND SENT INTO THE MYSTIC BODY OF THE HOLY CHURCH’!

(God to St. Catherine of Siena, Dialogue, Chapter 158)
1915: Francis Cialeo (Back row: Second from left) as a Dominican Aspirant.

Yahweh called me before I was born
from my mother's womb
he pronounced my name.

Isa 49:1

It is not enough for you
to be my servant...
I will make you
the light of the nations
so that my Salvation
may reach
the ends
of the earth.

Isa 49:6

June 1931

Fr. B. F. Cialeo with his students
of the Lateran University
Farewell to Father Ciallo
from his students. Nov. 1931

30-11-1931

Whom shall I send?
Who shall be my messenger?
Here I am. Send me.
Isa. 6:8-9

Leave
your country,
your family and
your father’s house
for the land
I will show you.
Gen. 12:1

The first group of Dominicans
who left Italy on 30-11-1931
From left: Fr. Peter Santarelli
Fr. Benedict F. Ciallo
Fr. Philip Pochetti
Bro. Albert Barbieri
Dominic believed that only when he had spent himself to the full extent of his power in gaining souls, he would be a true member of Christ.

Jordy of Saxony

Dominic took the light of learning in order to stamp out the errors that were rising up at that time. He took up the tusk of the Word, my only-begotten Son. Clearly he appeared as an apostle in the world, with such truth and light did he sow my word, dispelling the darkness and giving light. He was a light that I offered the world through Mary and sent into the mystic body of Holy Church as an uprooter of heresies.

St. Catherine, Dialogue, c. 158

1932 Multan, First and Second Group with Fr. Macaire O.F.M. Cap.

Go you also to my vineyard.

Mt. 20:4
Go, make disciples of all the Nations...

Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

Teach them to observe all the commands I gave you...
And know that I am with you always...

Yes, to the end of time.

Mt. 28:19-20

1942-1946 In the concentration camps in India (Second World War)
I will give you Shepherds
after my own heart and these
shall feed you on knowledge
Jer. 3:15

1936 Fr. B. Cialeo is made Apostolic Prefect of Multan

3-3-1940. Official installation of the first Bishop of Multan.
Mgr. Francis Benedict Cialeo O.P. with his clergy and guests.

29-10-1939, Rome
Episcopal Ordination of Mgr. Cialeo by Pope Pius XI.
Fear not Little Flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the Kingdom.

Lk. 12:32

Pope John XXIII and Bishop Sheerer

13-4-1960 At the division of the Diocese, Bishop Louis Sheerer O.P. succeeds Bishop F. B. Cialeo O.P. in the Multan Diocese.
If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed... nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Matthew 17:20
Faith, hard work, cooperation and benefactors' sacrifices and generosity make the new diocese grow in all fields.
It is to your descendants that I will give this land.
Gen. 12: 7

I will shower blessings on you.

I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven.
Gen. 22: 17

Bishop John Joseph

Bishop Patras Yusuf

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.
John 10: 10
I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. 2Cor.12:15

Paul Andreotti

1948: A zealous missionary.
1960: Vicar General.
1969: Provincial of the Roman Province.
1972: Auxiliary Bishop of Lyallpur.
1976: Bishop of Lyallpur (Faisalabad).

29-6-1972 Fr. Paul Andreotti O.P. ordained as the Auxiliary Bishop of Lyallpur
A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

Jn. 15:13

14-9-1976  Bishop Paul Andreotti O.P. takes over as the Bishop of Lyallpur.
The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.

15.61:1

9-1-1981: crowning date
of the activities of the
Dominicans in Pakistan:
Fr. John Joseph
is ordained as the Auxiliary
Bishop of Faisalabad -
(Lyallpur)
Look at the ship of your Father Dominic, my beloved son. He governed it with a perfect rule, asking his followers to be attentive only to my honour and the salvation of souls with the light of learning.

St. Catherine, Dialogue, c. 158

I have called you by your name, you are mine. 

Is. 43:1

Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. 

Mt. 4:19
I make Profession and promise Obedience ... until death.

Dominic set his ship in order by rigging it with three strong ropes: Obedience, Continence, and true Poverty. He made his ship very spacious, gladsome and fragrant, a most delightful garden.

St. Catherine, Dialogue, c.158
Through Him
With Him
In Him

You are a Priest for ever.
Ps. 110:4
Dominican Life

Is Apostolic
How beautiful it is

Brothers swelling in unity

Dominican life is fraternal
Il Rosario

Il Rosario è la mia preghiera predilett. Preghiera meravigliosa: meravigliosa nella sua semplicità e nella sua profondità. In questa preghiera ripetiamo molte volte le parole che la Vergine Maria usò dall'Arcangelo e dalla sua parente Elisabetta. A queste parole si associa tutta la Chiesa.

Si può dire che il Rosario è, in certo modo, un commento-preghiera dell'ultimo capitolo della Costituzione Lumen Gentium del Vescovo P. 2 capitolo chiamato della maritale-presenza della Madre di Dio nel mistero di Cristo e della Chiesa.

E LA VIA DI CRISTO
Sullo sfondo delle parole «Ave Maria» passano avanti agli occhi dell'anima i principali episodi della vita di Cristo. Essi si compongono nell'immagine dei missioni passate, dolorosi e gloriosi, e mettono in comunione vita con Gesù attraverso — potremmo dire — il cuore della sua Madre.

E' LA NOSTRA VITA
Il nostro cuore può racchiudere in questa decina del Rosario tutti i fatti che compongono la vita dell'individuo: della famiglia, della nazione, della Chiesa e dell'umanità; le vicende personali e quelle del prossimo e, in modo particolare, di coloro che ci sono più vicini, che ci stanno a cuore. Così, la semplice preghiera del Rosario dà il tono della vita umana.

E' IL NOSTRO GRAZIE
Ho avuto numerose prove di benevolenza dai paese degli uomini di tutto il mondo. La mia gratitudine soglia tradurla in dehre del Rosario, per poter esprimere in preghiera, oltre che in un modo umano, nella preghiera così semplice e così vicina che è il Rosario. Esorlo tutti cordialmente a recitarlo.

Giovanni Paolo II

The Rosary summarizes the whole Gospel.

Paul vi
Consider the glorious Thomas. With his mind’s eye he contemplated my Truth ever so tenderly and there he gained light beyond the natural and knowledge infused by Grace. Thus he learned more through prayer than through human study. He was a blazing torch shedding light within his Order and the mystic body of Holy Church.

St. Catherine, Dialogue, c.158
The closing of the day of the Dominican Friar with a procession in honour of Our Lady, singing the 'Salve Regina'.
O come!
Let us sing unto the Lord. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving.
There is an energy in us which makes things happen. When the paths of our lives touch those of others, we have to be there and let it happen. When the time of our particular sun-set comes, one thing, our accomplishments won't really matter a great deal. But the clarity and care with which we have loved others, will speak with vitality, of the great gift of life we have been for each other.
### THE LABOURERS ON THE PAKISTANI FIELD

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<td>2.</td>
<td>Fr. Gerardo Schiavone</td>
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<td>Fr. Alberto Noronha</td>
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<td>Fr. Aldino Amato</td>
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### THE 'LABOURERS WHO WENT TO OTHER FIELDS

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### ....AND THOSE IN HEAVEN

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