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From The Desk of Editor

My dear Brothers and Sisters in St. Dominic,

Greetings of the New Year 2020 to all of You!

God is so benevolent that He has given us a New Year 2020. Let us thank Him for the year 2019 in which He blessed us with so many blessings, joys, gifts and protection. May this new year 2020 bring newness in our commitment, courage of face challenges and hope to accomplish the tasks which we could not complete last year.

By the grace of God and through your support, our first edition of Dominican News Letter 2020 is in your hands, I am thankful to all of you for your kind guidance and help. Especial thanks to Very. Rev. fr. Younas Shahzad OP and Br. Perkash Dominic OP for their keen interest and hard work. This edition covers the reports of January to March 2020. A big thanks to all the contributors for their reports.

Month of January for the Dominicans was to commemorate as month of a great philosopher and an outstanding theologian St. Thomas Aquinas OP. He is a prolific writer, an Angelic Doctor and Patron Saint of Schools and Universalities. He is a role model for the Catholic Church and especially for all the Dominicans who defend the true Christian faith through their writings.

Lenten Season started in the month of February. Lent is forty days period of prayer, penance and spiritual endeavor in preparation for Easter. It is a time of reconciliation with God and with human beings. The Lenten season is a season of fasting, spiritual discipline, prayer, meditation and almsgiving. It invites us to renew and review our hearts and minds, and to prepare overselves to have a spiritual journey with Christ. I pray that this blessed and spiritual season may be a source of repentance and conversion from sinfulness to holiness and purity.

Month of March was a month of great disaster and suffering for the whole world because of Covid-19. It started from China then spread throughout Europe, America, Asia and later on all over the world. Master of the Order and our Prior Vice Provincial have asked us to be united in spirit and prayer & keep social distancing. It is a difficult time and we need to be stronger in faith and by following the rules of social distancing ourselves from others. Let us continue to pray for all the sick, sufferers, poor and needy people who are affected by this. Being Dominicans, we must be source of hope, joy and support for others. Lets pray for each other and follow the instructions of the Government of Pakistan and open our hearts and hands for charitable works.

I congratulate Very Rev. fr. Younas Shahzad OP (Prior Vice Provincial), respected Council Members and all the friars of Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province of Pakistan for completing successfully one year of Administration (1st March 2019 to 1st March 2020). May our Vice Province grow in numbers and progress in the mission of St. Dominic.

Rome, 15 March 2020

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The Lord is my life’s refuge; of whom should I be afraid? For God will hide me in his shelter in time of trouble, He will conceal me in the cover of his tent. Psalm 27:1,5

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Dominican Family,

As you know, after China, Italy is suffering gravely due to covid-19. Some members of the Dominican family in the north of the country have contracted the virus. Let us continue to pray for all the sick, those who care for them, those who are trying their best to find ways in overcoming the pandemic and its adverse effects.

Together with the brothers and sisters here at Santa Sabina, I wish to offer words of solidarity as a gesture of our nearness to one another at this time when common good requires “social distancing”. Our mission is to build communion and yet in this time of crisis, we seem to surrender ourselves to isolation. Paradoxical as it may seem, keeping distance from one another means we truly care for each other, because we want to stop the transmission of the novel corona virus that has claimed the lives of many and has imperiled the lives and livelihood of countless people all over the world. We keep our distance not because we see our brother or sister as a potential virus-carrier, or we are afraid of getting sick; but because we want to help break the chain of viral transmission. When the health care system becomes overloaded, as it happened in the north of Italy, our health care providers will be forced to make difficult ethical decisions — would a patient who is younger and therefore with longer life-expectancy be prioritized over one who is elderly? We hope and pray that we would prevent that from happening anywhere by doing whatever we can to prevent further toxic transmission. Here in Italy, as in other countries, it is painful for us not to publicly celebrate the Eucharist, the sacrament of communion, at a time when the people need it most because of isolation. And yet we have to endure this suffering in the spirit of human solidarity and communion, for “if one part of the body suffers, all the parts suffer with it” (I Cor. 12:26).

In this time of quarantena en quaresima, we are invited to pause and ponder the nearness of God to us. When public worship is suspended for the well-being of worshippers, we become keenly aware of the importance of spiritual communion. In these places, it is as though the people experience a prolonged “Holy Saturday” when the Church “abstains from the celebration of the Eucharist” meditating on the passion of the Lord and awaiting his resurrection (Paschale Solemnitatis, 73-75). In an experiential way, we are reminded of the hunger for the Eucharist of our brothers and sisters in remote areas who could participate in the Mass only once or twice a year. Now, more than ever, we need to find ways on how to break isolation, to preach the Gospel of love and communion, even in the “digital continent”
(ACG Biên Hòa 2019, 135-138). We need to remind our people that Jesus remains near to us even as we hunger for the Bread of Life.

Let me recall what we know deep within our hearts. If we want to spread the Gospel, we must be with the people, be near to them! We must cross linguistic, cultural, even ideological boundaries to spread the Word of God. Conversely, if we want to arrest the spread of something bad like the corona virus, we must keep distance, we must refrain from personal encounter because any proximate encounter has the potential to spread the contagion.

The current pandemic clearly shows that for something to circulate, personal closeness and encounter is necessary. When this crisis is over, let us not forget the lesson: if we want the Gospel to circulate in our secularized world, the same personal closeness and encounter is necessary. I hope and pray that our centers of studies, parishes, and other apostolic centers would continue to become like an “airport”, i.e., a hub where people deepen their knowledge and faith so that they too may positively “infect” everyone with the contaminating joy of the Gospel.

We continue to pray for the sick and those who care for them. Even in our solitude, God is close to us, and we are never alone for we all belong to the Body of Christ.

Your brother,

fr. Gerard Francisco P. Timonor III, OP
Master of the Order
Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. 
I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you” (Psalm 16:1-2)

Dear Brothers,

Greetings of peace and protection,

I hope by the grace of God all of you are safe and keeping well. We have been hearing through social Media since the month of January 2020 about the epidemic Corona Virus which started from Wuhan city of China causing respiratory diseases and deaths on a wide range and have now spread in 192 countries including Pakistan. This has shaken the whole world and has caused fear, anxiety and insecurity around the globe. After China, Italy and Iran are badly affected countries resulting thousands of deaths. Doctors and scientists are making research in order to invent some vaccine but still in vain.

Due to this disease the Schools, Colleges, Tuition Centers, Marriage Halls, Public Parks, Shopping Centers, Hostels, Jims, Games, Institutions and Seminaries are closed, exams are postponed and the airlines operation is temporarily suspended. The Government of Pakistan has taken very serious steps to avoid this deadly contagious disease suggesting the social distance. All the provinces are locked down; the Prime Minister of Pakistan has asked the people to quarantine themselves to prevent from this disease. Muslims and Christian hierarchy is asked to stop all the public prayers and convince people to stay and pray at home. Even the mosques and churches are closed and people are asked to stay at their homes. Every day the infected cases of Corona Virus are increasing. People are in fear and the whole country is in the state of emergency.

The ongoing spread of the coronavirus has become one of the biggest threats to the global economy and financial markets. Our endowment fund has been badly affected by it and all other programs are cancelled. Fr. Patrick and myself planned to go to the States from 23rd of March to 8th of April to meet the Provincial and Syndic of St. Joseph Province and some other people but due to the increasing threats of Corona Virus we had to cancel it. The French Prior Provincial, Regent of Studies and Master of Students who were supposed to visit Pakistan to discuss the possible collaboration in formation and studies from 14th to 19th could not come due to this disease. Brothers Arj OP and Akash OP who had applied for Spanish Study Visa due to the closing of the embassy their visas are also delayed.
We timely decided to send Louis Hall Students to their homes whereas Student-Brothers of Karachi and Lahore are staying in the houses. I request to the Friars who are assigned in the parishes to follow strictly the steps taken and instructions given by the bishops about avoiding Public Masses and Pastoral visits and reaching to the people to show your nearness only through media. I want to suggest to our senior friars to stay home taking strict measures because they could be the easy target of Corona Virus. I request to formators and student-brothers to stay home, pray, research, study and write reflections on this situation. I have been in touch with our brothers studying in Rome (fr. Taufiq Younas OP) and Bologna (fr. Naveed Imran OP and Shahzad Aquinas OP) and by the grace of God they are well and quarantined. I reassure them of my prayers. I am all right and all the friars in Lahore are quite well. I request all of you to follow the Safety measures and cooperate fully with the Government. I beseech you to void going out for time being. I hope and pray that with the power of the blood of Jesus Christ and by the grace of God we will overcome Corona Virus, COVID-19.

Pope Francis says, “In these days of trial, as humanity trembles at the threat of the [coronavirus] pandemic, I would propose that all Christians join their voices together to heaven”. Brother Gerard Francisco P. Timonor III, OP in his letter of 15th March wrote that “I wish to offer words of solidarity as a gesture of our nearness to one another at this time when common good require social distancing. Our mission is to build communion and yet in this time of crisis, we seem to surrender ourselves to isolation. Keeping distance from each other means we truly care for each other, because we want to break the chain of viral transmission of Corona virus”.

In this situation staying at home is staying safe. Let us ask the intercession of our Holy Father St. Dominic that he may protect all of us from all the dangers of life and keep us safe and secure wherever we are. Let us remember all the Priests, Brothers, Sisters, Doctors, Nurses and Lay Persons who died due to this disease and pray that the Lord may grant them eternal rest. Let us pray that sign of the Holy Cross, blood of the Lamb and power the Holy Spirit may finish this virus and save our friars, the people of Pakistan and all others by his extended hand. I wish all of you the Feast of the Annunciation of our Lord (25th March) which is feast of our vice province “FILIUS MARIAE “Ibn-e-Mariam. Please be in touch with the Lord through prayer and be in contact with me through communication.

Be strong and take heart,
all you who hope in the LORD (Psalm 31:25)

Fraternally yours in St. Dominic,
fr. Younas Shahzad, OP.,
Prior Vice Provincial,
Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province,
Dominican Order Pakistan.
Circular Letter
on Holy Week and Easter

Dated: 5th April 2020

Dear Dominican Friars and Sisters, Laity and Youth (IDYM)
Greetings of peace,

I wish you a Very blessed Holy Week and Easter 2020.

I hope you are safe and sound in your priories, parishes, convents and houses. I express my deep concerns in this dreadful situation when corona virus is killing many people in this world. This is a time to lift up our eyes to the Lord and to look at crucified and Risen Christ. We can be only saved by his precious blood.

As we are going to enter in the most holy and sacred week in which the work of our salvation was accomplished. kindly remember and pray for the quick recovery of all those who are contaminated by COVID 19 and pray for the deceased. I am weekly updated by fr. Jean-Ariel BAUZA SALINAS OP Secretarius Generalis from Santa Sabina on Corona Virus epidemic and its effects. In his recent email he wrote that presently there are 8 Nuns and 22 friars contaminated by Corona Virus and two friars already died on 30th of March one from England and the other from St. Thomas Province of South Italy. The monasteries affected are those of Cremona (Italy) with 5 sisters and Regensburg (Germany) with 3 sisters.

For the brothers, they are sons of the provinces of Hispania (8 brothers: 5 in Madrid, 2 in Salamanca and 1 in Valencia), Holy Rosary (2 brothers in Madrid), France (3 brothers: 1 in Lille, 2 in Helsinki), Central America (2 student brothers in Valencia Spain), Poland (5 brothers, all in Rzeszów) and the Philippines (2 brothers in Manila).

Two brothers died: Giovanni Cattina, of the Province of San Tommaso in Italia on 30th March, and David Sanders, of the Province of England, on the same day. May the Lord open to them the gates of the heavenly Jerusalem.

Concerning the nuns and brothers in isolation & with symptoms, but without having been able to pass the test, we have 7 nuns in Prouilhe (France), 2 nuns in Chalais (France), 4 brothers in Ireland, one brother from the Province of St. Joseph (USA) and one brother from the Province of France. May the Lord grant eternal rest to the deceased and give healing to all those who are suffering from this disease.

I would like to share with you the words of His Holiness Pope Francis who in his message of the Holy Week “Creativity of Love can overcome isolation” says that, “we can prepare a better time these days. Even if we are isolated, thought and spirit can go far with the creativity of love. This is what we need today: the creativity of love.” fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP former Master of the Order pondering on the “New World” being created by necessary social
distance says, “Corona Virus is depriving us of Touch, which is the nourishment of our humanity” (IDI 596-March 2020).

Being Dominicans, we must also create a new way of expressing our love and concern for the neighbors. The best way of showing our love to our neighbors is to show a concern about their good health. Following the instructions of the government of Pakistan our local ordinaries have decided not to have public serves. I urge you, my dear brothers, to continue the liturgical services in your communities and share this with the people of God through Social Media. I appreciate the friars who have been doing charitable deeds and also have been encouraging the faithful to open their hands towards the poor and needy. I pray that the Risen Lord may bless us with the new world free from this horrible plague. Easter Candles fill the hearts of suffering humanity with hope, joy, and love.

I wish you all many joys and blessings of Easter in advance.

Happy Easter

With best wishes and kindest regards.

Fraternally yours in St. Dominic,

fr. Younas Shahzad, OP.,
Prior Vice Provincial,
Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province,
Dominican Order Pakistan
Celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord at Faisalabad Covid-19 Epidemic

On 5th January, 2020, the universal Church celebrated Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord with great Enthusiasm, devotion and excitement. Following the tradition of the Catholic Church, the Holy Rosary Parish Warispura also celebrated this feast with great joy to refresh the spirit of the Epiphany in the lives of the faithful. It commemorates manifestation of Jesus' divinity, according to Christian belief, when the three Kings (also known as wise men or Magi) visited infant Jesus in Bethlehem, and when St. John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the River Jordon. Epiphany refers to the manifestation of the Divine nature of Jesus and is marked by a feast day on January 06, 2020. The Orthodox church celebrates Christmas on this day. Holy Rosary Parish, presented creativity of the Scene of the feast of the Epiphany. Three Kings entered the Church compound with Camels, representing the three areas of the Parish with procession and sounds of drums, praying and dancing. They carried banners stating King of the Kings, Prince of Peace, Light of the World and Life of the World. It was very inspiring and touching moment as it manifested real picture of the Feast of the Epiphany.

During the Holy Mass Fr. Pascal Paulus OP, was the main celebrant. In his homily, he highlighted the importance of the feast. Like the Magi, let us offer to Jesus the gifts of our lives on this feast of the Epiphany. Fr. Pascal mentioned four types of gifts: (a). The first gift is friendship with God. After all, the whole message of Christmas is that God's Son became one of us to redeem us and to call us friends. God wants our friendship in the form of wholehearted love and devotion. (b). The second gift might be friendship with others. This kind of friendship can be costly. The price it expects is experience and openness to others. The Good News, however, is that, in offering friendship to others; we will receive back many blessings. (c). The third gift might be the gift of reconciliation. This gift repairs damaged relationships. It requires honesty, humility, understanding, forgiveness and patience. (d). The fourth gift of this season is the gift of peace and seeking God's peace in our own lives through prayer, sacraments and daily meditation on the Word of God. It is out of humble gratitude that we give Him from the heart our gifts of worship, prayer, singing, possessions, talents and time. As we can offer our insignificant little gifts to God, the Good News is that God accepts them! Like the Magi offer their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, we offer what we have, in response to what the Child has given us - Himself.

It was a great celebration and at the end Fr. Pascal Paulus OP, appreciated the Parish team for their commitment, dedication and zeal for the preparation of this Feast.
Week of Prayer for
“Christian Unity”

Novices Moudaber Cornelius & Aneel Andrew

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1)

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an International Christian Ecumenical observance. Traditionally, every year the week of prayer for Christian unity is celebrated between 18-25 January. In the year 2020, the Commission of Interfaith Harmony of the Faisalabad Diocese under the guidance of Bishop Dr. Indrias Rehmat (Bishop of Faisalabad) organized different prayer services at various parishes with the collaboration of different denominations. On 18th January, the opening ceremony was arranged in Bishops' House by Fr. Khalid Rasheed and Fr. Pascal Paulus OP, and in this ceremony many priests, pastors and lay faithful participated. In this week, the commission along with Bishop Indrias went to different parishes and the churches of other denominations in the diocese and arranged unity prayer services.

On 25th of January 2020, the closing ceremony of the Unity Week was organized at Holy Rosary Parish Warispura. Fr. Pascal Paulus hosted this prayer service. Bishop Dr. Indrias Rehmat, Dominican priests, Diocesan Priests, three Bishops and pastors of different denominations participated in this prayer service. Dominican Sisters, Medical Mission Sisters, Charity Sisters and a large number of faithful from the entire parish attended this prayer service. All the guests were warmly welcomed by the faithful of the parish. Fr Alvin was M.C of the program and Fr. Azhar Lal OP shared the purpose and the history of the week of Christian Unity. In this prayer service a pastor read the Word of God and Bishop Indrias Rehmat gave the homily. Holy Rosary Choir sang spiritual hymns. After prayer service some pastors shared their views and thoughts. Pastor Imran said, “We all are pearls of the Holy Rosary”. He said as the Rosary is one, we are also one so, we should live in unity. After this, flowers were distributed among all the pastors and priests. Fr Shakeel Michael OP showed the pictorial presentation on the activities of the commission during the whole week. At the end, Fr. Pascal Paulus thanked Bishop Indrias Rehmat for his presence and thanked all the participants. He appreciated the community of the Holy Rosary Priory to help him in organizing such a meaningful prayer service for the Christian Unity. The program ended with delicious food served in the dining hall of the Holy Rosary Priory.
New Year brings new hopes, new enthusiasm and new expectations. It also brings some challenges to us to confront with them, through proper planning and sufficient preparations. This is the day which is celebrated in the company of friends, relatives, and loved ones with prayers and good wishes. After the end of Christmas and winter holidays as the schools and other educational institutions reopened on 15th of January 2020, Saint Dominic Convent Higher Secondary School Bahawalpur arranged a program of New Year celebration on 18th of February 2020. The program started with prayer said by Miss Atiya and recitation of the Holy Bible by Miss Nadia. Sir Khalid, Miss Sumera Asher and Miss Nadia Joseph were the event coordinators and Organizers of this program. Miss Sumera also played her role as a comparer of the program. In this program the staff sang songs, expressed their good thoughts and good wishes for the bright future of the students, staff and school. Some of the teachers expressed their wishes through poetry. During the celebration gifts were presented to the teachers.

Fr. Yasir Paul OP, then addressed the staff and said I wish all of you a very Happy New Year. New Year provides opportunity to learn from the past experiences and to make positive changes in our lives. We all are fresh and happy after celebrating Christmas. So let's start this year with new feelings, and enthusiasm. We have new wishes and new zeal. Along with this, there are new challenges as well. So be brave and courageous to overcome these challenges with your professional capabilities and talents. Let us work with a strong bond of unity. Let us stand together because being united we make progress. At the end, high tea was served and the staff thanked the principal.

Dominican Family

Celebrates the
Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas (Lahore)

With immense joy and dedication, on 28th January, 2020 the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas was celebrated by Dominican Family at Ibn-e-Mariam House of Studies, Lahore. His Grace Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shaw presided over the Holy Mass along with concelebrants, Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP (Prior Vice Provincial of Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province, Pakistan) and Rev. Fr. Almas Daniel (Rector of St. Francis Xavier Seminary, Lahore). Rev. Fr. Amjad Yousaf (Dean of Studies) and the
staff members of the Seminary, Rev. George Pittalis from Italy (Missionary in Central America Guatemala) and other Dominican friars and Sisters participated in the ceremony.

In his sermon Archbishop Sebastian said that we all are familiar about the intellectual characteristics of St. Thomas, today we will reflect that how St. Thomas as a young boy recognized his vocation. From the childhood, St. Thomas\' ways were clear and distinct. His parents wanted to see him the abbot of Benedictine Abbey but he chose mendicant preachers (Order of Preachers). Once he recognized his vocation then he eliminated all his worldly desires even he was offered to become a bishop but he did not wish for. He spent his life in meditation and offered the fruit of his meditation to the world to know the truth. After the Holy Mass a variety program took place at Peace Centre. The youth of St. Martin de Pores group from Asif Town welcomed all the guests. Sr. Adeela OP shared a brief story of The Dumb Ox of Roccasecca, Italy.

Expressing his views Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad said that today the whole world especially the Catholic Church acknowledges St. Thomas Aquinas as a prolific writer who not only defended the Church from the heresies through his teaching, he also gave the world new dimensions to reach to the reality through faith and reason. He was from a great theologian and Philosopher who showed the Catholic faith in harmony with philosophy and all other branches of knowledge. He faithfully accomplished what he chose. Today it is a challenge for the Dominicans in Pakistan to come up with their legacy regarding intellectual life. At the end Rev. Fr. Patrick Peter OP extended his heartfelt gratitude to His Grace Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shaw, all the priests, sisters performers, all the guests and brothers for their blessed presence and contribution for making this auspicious event memorable. The program was concluded with festive dinner.

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**Annual Sports Gala**

at St. Dominic's Convent Higher Secondary Boys School BWP

Co-curricular activities are the soul of the school culture and of the other educational institutions. These healthy activities avail opportunities for students to use their physical abilities and mental efficiencies to achieve their targets in the form of winning. Therefore, games and sports are the great means to create zeal and zest in students. Which keep them fit and efficient, smart and active. Sports keep the body active and makes the mind sharper. Through sports and games students' capabilities are developed and their skills are enhanced. It bears in them a great courage to accept challenges and work on them. They
put all their efforts to win. True Sportsmanship brings positive change in students and builds moral manners by enhancing their attitudes, behaviors and their personalities.

Saint Dominic Convent Higher Secondary School organized two days Annual Sports Gala from 31st Jan -1st Feb 2020. The Dominican Friars of the Community of Saint Dominic’s Priory and the guests were received with march past by the students. After the opening prayer by Rev. Fr. Maris Javed, Rev. Fr. Iflikhar Moon OP expressed his thoughts on the importance of having self-belief, being focused and goal oriented.

The principal of the school, Rev. Fr. Yasir Paul OP welcomed the distinguished guests and the audience. He addressed the teachers and students and officially announced the opening of the Sports Gala. He said that sports and games meant a lot with education of the students. He highlighted the importance of sports and games and encouraged the players and participants to play with sportmanship spirit to be winner. He said that I encourage all the staff specially sports coordinators have put their heart and soul to make this event splendid.

Then a ceremonial sports torch was lit by the Principal and honorable guests and games started with great zeal and excitement. Sir A.D. Malik, Sir Jamshed, Sir Khalid, Miss Nadia and Miss Sumera were the event coordinators and sports gala organizers. Miss Robina Sohail fulfilled her responsibility as a commentator during the games. There were arranged different food stalls for the refreshment. On the first day the primary section students participated with vim and vigor in different games and races such as sack race, fish race, bunny race, skipping race, hurdle race etc., under the kind guidance of their respected teachers.

On the next day there were different games e.g. football match, cricket match, martial art show, different race such as relay, long and flat races. Our school's playground rimmed with flags and balloons of different colors and also music painted the beauty of the event. It was a great event filled with sportmanship, enthusiasm and memories to cherish and refresh the atmosphere of the school. The families, parents and audience appreciated the players and winners by constantly applauding. At the end the principal of the esteemed institution, Fr. Yasir Paul OP proposed the vote of thanks to all the families, parents, teachers, students and ex-students and the prizes and trophies were distributed among the winners.
The Feast of

St. Thomas Aquinas (Karachi)

“To live well is to work well, to show a good activity.” On January 28, 2020 a fabulous Feast day of the great saint of the Catholic Church, St. Thomas Aquinas, was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the Convent of the Dominican Sisters of the Union of St. Catherine of Siena Missionaries of Schools, Karachi. Dominican Family in Karachi was gathered to celebrate this grace filled occasion. The purpose of celebrating the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas as a family was to strengthen our fraternal bond and recall the Dominican tradition to be one in mind and heart for the sincere love of study and research through teaching and preaching. Remembering that St. Thomas Aquinas known as the Angelic Doctor due to his purity of mind, heart and body gave up a life of nobility and wealth to be a mendicant Dominican friar. He was born in 1225 A.D to a noble family in the small town of Roccasecca, near Aquino, in Italy. He was an outstanding theologian and philosopher of the medieval period. Through his philosophical and theological writings, he made it clear that faith and reason both go together.

Being the preacher of grace and truth, we feel proud of such a charismatic, miraculous and scholarly personality belonging to Dominican family in the form of St. Thomas who discovered, combined and preached the truth. He is the only one who has been quoted in every church document as reference point. He wrote number of volumes on theology and philosophy. It is certainly true that if someone wants to become priest he has to study St. Thomas’s philosophy and theology in order to become defender of faith. Even today he is remembered for his attempt to reconcile faith and reason in a comprehensive way.

During the Holy Mass Fr. Akhtar Naveed was the main celebrant and Fr. Zeeshan Francisco, was the concelebrant. In the beginning of Holy Mass Fr. Akhtar (House Superior) on behalf of Fr. Younas Shahzad (Prior Vice Provincial) welcomed all the distinguished guests and expressed joy and sincere love to all the participants. In his introduction of the Holy Mass he briefly talked about the life and works of St. Thomas Aquinas. In the homily he said that St. Thomas is a role model for all of us who used all his skills and traits for the glory of God and for the salvation of human beings. He also said that this great feast invites us to take care of the universe, with complete devotion through charity.

In modern, technological and developed world, he is remembered in the Catholic Church, as patron saint of the colleges and universities. He further said that in order to become humble like St. Thomas, we need to have genuine love for others, because love helps us to become holy and leads us towards God. St. Thomas had great thirst for God, in his early childhood while asking the question who is God? Throughout his life he remained and grew in God’s love. Being Dominicans, we need to have same thirst for God as St. Thomas Aquinas had in his life. After the Holy Mass Fr. Akhtar Naveed expressed his great joy and congratulated the Dominican family for participating in the mission of St. Thomas through the living Gospel and writing skills. Following the Dominican tradition, the youngest in the community, Bro. Nabeel Joseph OP cut the cake and everybody participated in the delicious meal. At the end, Salve Regina was sung by the whole Community.
A Requiem Mass for Late
Mr. Ilyas Mehar
at Dominican House of Formation Multan

A Requiem Mass for Mr. Ilyas Mehar, the beloved daddy of Fr. Haroon Ilyas OP was offered on February 3, 2020 at Louis Hall Dominican House of Formation Multan. Fr. Haroon Ilyas OP presided over the Holy Mass whereas Fr. Yaqub Farooq OP delivered the homily. The Dominican Friars of Multan Community, Union of St. Catherine of Siena (Missionaries of the Schools) Multan, Dominican Sisters of our Lady of the Rosary Razabad, Good Shepherd Sisters, Daughters of St. Paul Sisters, the Students Domestic Staff of Louis Hall, family, relatives, dear and near ones of Fr. Haroon Ilyas OP participated Eucharistic celebration. Fr. Raphael Mehnga OP (the Superior) gave the introduction of the Holy Mass and welcomed all the participants. In his homily, Fr. Yaqub Farooq OP highlighted the faith, services and noteworthy life events of Mr. Ilyas Mehar. He further said that as followers of Christ, our belief is in the life after death. Death is not the end of life for us rather it is a door to enter in the eternal life. Our Lord Jesus Christ also suffered death but rose on the third day. Christians are people of hope. May almighty God shine His face on Mr. Ilyas Mehar and grant him the company of saints.

In the end of the Holy Mass Fr. Irfan Jerome OP (the Director of Louis Hall, Dominican House of Formation Multan) expressed the words of gratitude and prayed for the eternal repose of the departed soul of Mr. Ilyas Maher and for consolation of the family, friends and relatives. After the Eucharistic celebration a meal was shared by all the guests. Eternal rest grant unto him O, Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon him.

First anniversary of
“Human Fraternity”
Declaration of Pope Francis and Ahmed Al-Tayyab
celebrated in Pakistan

The first anniversary of world-famous document "Human fraternity for peace and life in the world" signed by Pope Francis and Ahmad Al-Tayyab, Grand Imam of Al-Ahzar, Cairo, was celebrated in Lahore on 4th February, 2020. The event was organized by the National Commission for Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenism of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Pakistan. The conference was organized in the Governor's House in Lahore. Among other
Christian leaders were Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shaw, President of the Commission, and Archbishop Christophe Zakhia El-Kassis, Apostolic Nuncio to Pakistan, Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar, Governor of Punjab Province, Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad, Grand Imam of the great Badshahi Mosque, Lahore, Fr. James Channan OP, the Director Peace Center Lahore & Regional Coordinator URI Pakistan, Mr. Faisal Ilyas Executive Secretary Peace Center Lahore, Mr. Samuel Payara, Pastor Shahid Miraj senior pastor and Dean of the Protestant Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, Church of Pakistan and by several other prominent Muslim leaders.

The purpose of the event was to renew the common commitment for dialogue and fraternity in Pakistan and express gratitude and solidarity with Pope Francis and Ahmad Al-Tayyab for their efforts in promoting reconciliation, the culture of dialogue, peace, freedom and justice in the world.

Archbishop Shaw said that "accepting and welcoming one another is essential for living together in peace and harmony", welcoming the fact that "many people of different religions" were brought together "to commemorate the first anniversary of that historic document". The Apostolic Nuncio Zakhia El-Kassis reaffirmed Pope Francis' vision for peace, harmony and coexistence in the world, recalling that "it is necessary to promote the culture of dialogue as a path for mutual respect, acceptance, harmony, justice, freedom and equality".

The commitment of Christians and Muslims in Pakistan for dialogue and coexistence, with a view to the common good of the country, was appreciated by Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar, Governor of the Punjab province, who said: "We are all called to give our contribution to make Pakistan a better country". Peace, he recalled, "cannot be promoted in a society without justice", promising that "the government will do its best to promote religious harmony". Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad and the other Muslim leaders also expressed their favorable views regarding the Abu Dhabi document.

Fr. James Channan OP said, “I congratulate the organizers especially His Excellency Archbishop Sebastian Shaw and Fr. Nadeem Francis OFM for organizing and inviting us to celebrate the 1st Anniversary of the historical document signed by Pope Francis and Ahmad Al-Tayyab, Grand Imam of Al-Ahzar, on February 4, 2019. I also pay my gratitude to Governor Punjab, Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar for his open-heart welcoming on minority issues in Pakistan. I wish this document reach to every home and everybody become supportive of interfaith harmony and co-existence in Pakistan and all around the globe.”
Highlights of Charity Distribution During the COVID-19
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Fr. Jamsheed Albert OP 13 Jan
Bro. Emmanuel Fazal OP 14 Jan
Fr. Tafish Dominle 23rd Jan
Fr. Shaked Michael OP 12th Feb
Fr. Hayoon Hayat OP 13th Feb
Deacon Bashir Francis OP 14th Feb
Bro. Acedi Martin OP 20th Feb
Fr. Aldino Amato OP 22nd Feb
Fr. Raphael Mbinga OP 23rd Feb
Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP 23rd Feb
Bro. Zebib Augustine OP 8th Mar
Fr. Thomas Blanti OP 12th Mar
Bro. Acci Bernard OP 24th Mar

Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province Pakistan
Congratulations!

Rev. Fr. James Channan OP & Rev. Fr. Thomas Bhatti OP on your 40th Priestly Ordination Anniversary

Congratulations!

We heartly congratulate our student Ezan Sohail got first position in Debate and Speech competition in the College.

We Congratulate three of our students namely Jameel Samuel Sanwal Ram and Ahsan Christ got positions in the Annual Sports Competition in the College.
Happy Easter

“We the Dominican Family wish to the whole world the blessings of our Risen Lord in abundance”
Seminar on the
Holy Bible & the Year of Youth
(Novices Youab Anthony & Haroon Mario)

“To bring people close to God and God’s Word closer to the people”.

On 10th of February a seminar on the Holy Bible was arranged at Holy Rosary Parish, Warispura under the guidance of Rev Fr. Pascal Paulus OP (Parish Priest). People from all over the parish were gathered and a large number of youth was also present. The topic of the seminar was “Faith, Vocation and discernment”. The topic was relevant in relation to the Year of Youth. The spoke’s person for the seminar was Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Asi (the Executive Sectary of Catholic Bible Commission Pakistan). Fr. Yaqoob Yousaf (Coordinator of Catholic Bible Commission for Faisalabad Diocese) was also present. The seminar started with a procession under the guidance of St. Jerome Bible Study Group. In this procession Holy Bible was venerated with candles and flowers. The MC of the program was Fr. Azhar Lal OP. At the beginning of the program, the team of Catholic Bible Commission gave brief introduction, publications and purpose of the Catholic Bible Commission of Pakistan. The chief motive of the Catholic Bible Commission of Pakistan is “To bring people close to God and God's Word closer to the people”.

In Pakistan, the year 2020 is declared the “Year of Youth”. Focusing on the theme of the year in his talk, Fr. Emmanuel Asi shared and highlighted the role of youth in the development of the society and Church in the light of the Holy Bible. He shared that Jesus Christ is a great model for youth of our time, in his youth he was mature and able to discern the ways of his life. So, following Jesus Christ as the model, young people must follow Christ, who remained obedient to his mission till death. He also briefed to youth that as a young boy or girl, they should make decision in the light & guidance of the Holy Bible and the teaching of the Church. Parents should give opportunities to their young boys & girls, to take their decisions in right direction.

After the talk, time was given to young people to share their problems. Many questions were raised from public side and respected Fr. Emmanuel Asi and Fr. Pascal Paulus, OP answered the questions is on satisfying manner. At the end Rev. Fr Pascal Paulus thanked and appreciated the work of Fr. Emmanuel Asi and his Commission. He also thanked Fr. Yaqoob Yousaf for his presence. He expressed his sincere thanks to the prior and the community of the Holy Rosary Priory and the novices who helped him to organize seminar for youth. The program ended with the refreshment offered in the compound of the Holy Rosary Priory.
Seminar on
Lenten Season
and its Spirituality
Held at 92/6-R Sahiwal on 17th February 2020

Lent is forty days period of prayer, spiritual discipline, penance and spiritual endeavor in preparation for Easter. It is a
time of reconciliation with God and with man. The Lenten season invites us to renew and review our hearts and minds,
to prepare our selves to have a spiritual journey with Christ.

The seminar was organized under the kind guidance of Rev. fr. Zahid Augustine OP (Parish Priest) and Babu Arshad
Shaheen (Area Incharge Catechist). The guest of honor was Rev. fr. Nadeem Joseph OP (House Superior) and
preacher of the seminar was Rev. Fr. Roccus Patras OP. A warm welcome was given to the guests by presenting
bouquet and garlanding by the people. Program started by the Lenten Hymn sung by the local choir. Fr. Zahid
Augustine OP read the Gospel passage and said an opening prayer. After that, Rev. Fr. Roccus Patras OP in very
profound and simple way talked about the biblical aspect of Fasting and its spirituality. He said that Christian fasting is
incomplete without prayer and almsgiving. He further said that God wants our repented hearts and simplicity of life.
Rev. fr. Nadeem Joseph OP while expressing his thoughts said that Lent is a time gifted to us by God so that we can
change ourselves. Moreover, he appreciated Fr. Roccus Patras OP for his spiritually enriching message and
congratulated fr. Zahid Augustine OP and Babu Arshad Shaheen for arranging such a splendid seminar. Some
questions were also answered regarding Christian fast.

At the end of the Seminar, Rev. fr. Zahid Augustine OP thanked the preacher of the day fr. Rocuss Patras OP, guest of
honor Rev. fr. Nadeem Joseph OP, Babu Arshad Shaheen and Church Committee for their availability and preparation
for the seminar. He prayed that may this Lenten season be grace and spirit-filled time for all of you.

The Canonical Visit of
Prior Vice Provincial to Dominican House of Studies Karachi

Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP, the Prior Vice Provincial of Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province
Pakistan made his first Canonical Visitation to the Dominican House of Studies Karachi
from 20th - 23rd of February 2020. He was warmly welcomed by the whole community.
During his visit he first had an individual meeting with all the friars then had community meeting. He appreciated the
community bond and fraternal brotherhood in the community life and said that community of Dominican House of
Studies is very welcoming; this element should be carried on. He also encouraged friars to move forward for the prosperity and well-being of the Vice Province. He shared the areas of concern and challenges as well.

The Prior Provincial expressed his feelings that he is happy to see the newness and beauty in the house and gave SHABASH (appreciation). He added that the Vice Province has high expectations from the Dominican House of Studies Karachi because the friar brothers are the future of the Vice Province. Particularly he appreciated Fr. Akhtar Naveed OP (The Master of Students) for his great concern and love for the house. At the end Fr. Younas Shahzad OP thanked all the friars for their hospitality and availability. Rev. Fr. Akhtar Naveed OP also extended his word of thanks for the Canonical Visitation of the Prior Vice Provincial.

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**A Program on Ecumenism**

held at Sacred Heart Parish Sahiwal on 21st February 2020

Roman Catholic Church celebrates, Week of Unity in the World from 19th January to 25th January 2020. Catholic Diocese of Faisalabad under the leadership of His Excellency Bishop Dr. Indrias Rehmet arranged different programs during this week in the various parishes of his Diocese. Keeping this in mind, a program on Ecumenism was held on 21st February 2020 at Sacred Heart Parish Sahiwal with the collaboration of various denominations of Sahiwal City such as ARP, Church of Pakistan, Salvation Army, Pakistan Gospel Assemblies Church, United Pentecostal, New Apostolic Church, Power of God Church, Methodist Church, Seven Pillars Church.

His Excellency Bishop Indrias Rehmet, Rev. Fr. Khalid Rashid Asi, Rev. Fr. Pascal Paulus OP, Rev.Fr. Khalid Mukhtar and Bishop Abram Daniel were the chief guests of this program. Babu Arshad Shaheen led the program as a comparer. Program was started with an opening prayer said by Rev. Sidney Paul, Pastor Nobel Mukhtar from ARP Church recited from the Holy Bible and Rev. Fr. Roccus Patras OP proclaimed the Gospel. In the introduction of the program Rev. Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP highlighted the importance of Ecumenism. He quoted Church teachings such as Vatican II, and Various Encyclicals and said that we need to be united in order to preach the Good News.

His Excellency Bishop Dr. Indrias Rehmet in his message said that in the light of the church teachings we need to preach the Gospel of Jesus through our life witness. Further he stated that the doors of Catholic Church are open for all. Rev. Fr. Pascal Paulus OP and Rev. Fr. Khalid Rasheed Asi while expressing their views said that we should promote the gospel values of love, peace, and brotherhood. Bishop Abram Daniel along with different pastors assured their full cooperation and appreciated Sacred Heart Parish for the initiative of promoting the harmony among the various
churches of Sahiwal. Peace candle was lit and special prayers for peace and harmony among the churches were presented. Rev. Fr. Zahid Augustine OP (Parish Priest) thanked His Excellency Bishop Dr. Indrias and said that we wish to have such programs in order to enhance the unity bond among the different churches in Sahiwal. At the end of the program, His Excellency said the concluding prayer and gave final blessing to the congregation. Cake was cut by the heads of different churches and high tea was served to all the participants.

His Excellency, Mr. Antonio Guterres visited Badshahi Mosque and participated in the interfaith banquet, hosted in his honor. Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad and Fr James Channan OP were among the special guests.

The government of Pakistan organized a special visit of the honorable guest his excellency, Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations to the grand Badshahi Mosque and Hazoori Garden in Lahore on 20th of February, 2020. Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar the Governor of Punjab and Mr. Usman Buzdar, Chief Minister Punjab along with Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad Grand Imam of the Badshahi Mosque welcomed UN Secretary General Antonio at Hazoori Garden and Badshahi Mosque. The honorable guest visited Badshahi Mosque and admired its beauty and historic significance of this grand mosque. He also participated in the interfaith dinner which was hosted in his honor. Several civil authorities, religious scholars and leaders including Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Sikhs were invited for this banquet. His Grace, Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shaw, Archbishop of Lahore and Fr James Channan OP, URI Regional Coordinator Asia-Pakistan and Director Peace Center Lahore were invited by the Government to represent Christian community whereas Dr. Munawar Chand, a Hindu leader and Chairman Pakistan Hindu Council and URI Coordinator, Anglo Asian Friendship Society Pakistan CC and Sardar Bishan Singh, a sikh
Leader, were also invited. Archbishop Shaw said that I feel very happy to be invited in the Mosque and also at the grand reception. Fr. James Channan OP said that it is a matter of great joy and honor for me to be here. It is a manifestation to boost the charter of the UN which guarantees equal rights to all citizens, no matter what religions they belong too. Our government is also trying its level best to express deep respect for the Christian, Hindu and Sikh religious minorities in Pakistan. Dr. Munawar Chand said as I am representing Hindu community of Pakistan it is a landmark and manifestation of respect for each other. Sardar Bishan Singh said that the visit of the UN Secretary General to the Badshahi Mosque and to their religious temple, Gurdwara in Kartarpur are historic moments and I thank the government of Pakistan for making these arrangements. Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad was deeply moved and impressed by the visit of His Excellency, Antonio Guterres to the Badshahi Mosque and felt great honor to welcome the Honorable Guest in the mosque along with Christian, Hindu and Sikh leaders of Pakistan. Maulana Azad also gave a guided tour and shared the historical background of the mosque and its significance for the Muslim community in Pakistan and around the world. Such interfaith encounters offer opportunities to build bridges of respect, tolerance, compassion and acceptance among religions. Together we can break the walls of violence, discrimination and non-acceptance by creating love, tolerance, peace and interfaith harmony.

His Excellency, Mr. Antonio Guterres visited Badshahi Mosque and participated in the interfaith banquet, hosted in his honor. Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad and Fr James Channan OP were among the special guests.

The role of religious scholars is important for promoting harmony, peace and brotherhood in the society. The present government is also committed to protect the rights of religious minorities as equal citizens of Pakistan. Mr. Guterres showed deep interest and admiration for the historic Badshahi Mosque which was built by the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb Alamgir in 1673. It is the 2nd largest mosque in Pakistan in which over 100,000 people can offer prayers at a time. Mr. Antonio took several photos with interfaith leaders. After the visit there was grand reception at Hazoori Bagh in which over 500 distinguished guests and religious leaders participated.

Seminar on the Holy Bible
at Sacred Heart Parish Sahiwal

One day seminar was organized at Sacred Heart Parish Sahiwal on 21st February 2020 by Catholic Bible Commission Pakistan. Rev. Fr. Yaqoob Yousaf Diocesan Director of Catholic Bible Commission Pakistan, Sr. Parveen Falk Sheer and Rev. Fr. Zahid Augustine OP hosted the program. The topic of this seminar was "The
presentation of the Lord in the Temple and his Growth ". The preacher of this seminar was Mr. Shahbaz Ruffin. There were about 85 Participants (Male and female) including with Dominican friars and Sisters.

The Program was started with the coronation of the Holy Bible. Rev. Fr. Yaqoob Yousaf introducing the purpose of this program said that we all should be friends of the Holy Bible and through our day to day life we should Preach the Word of God. He appreciated Fr. Zahid Augustine and his team for the nice preparation and arrangements. Mr. Shahbaz Ruffin through the use of multimedia delivered his speech in a simple and interesting way. He highlighted the importance of the Holy Bible. He said that Jesus for us is a model of Obedience and we should be also obedient to God and our Parents.

At the end of the seminar, Rev. Fr. Zahid Augustine OP thanked his Excellency Bishop Dr. Indrias Rehmat (Chairman Catholic Bible Commission Pakistan Faisalabad) for appointing him regional coordinator and also thanked Rev. Fr. Yaqoob Yousaf (Director), Sr. Parveen Falk Sheer, Sr. Josephine Michael OP, Rev. Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP, Rev. Fr. Roccus Patras OP and all the participants for their availability and keen interest. He also showed gratitude to Dominican Sisters, fathers, catechists, Parish groups and domestic staff for the beautiful preparation.

Visit to the Monastery of the Angles Karachi.

On 21st of February Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad visited the Dominican Nuns at Monastery of the Angels Landi with the Dominican Friars. The purpose of this visit was to have the words of solidarity with Mother Mary Rose OP on the death of her brother Rev. Fr. Augustine Soares. Remembering his dedicated services for the diocese of Karachi in different parishes, local Church specially his contribution in the education, humble services for the poor, uplifting youth, forming seminarians at Christ the King Seminary Karachi, and teaching at National Catholic Institute of Theology. Fr. Younas admired him for his great contribution. Fr. Provincial also shared with Nuns his enriching experience of General Chapter Bien Hua 2019 in Vietnam. He said that there were 150 participants this historical event. He said that it was unique working experience to be in Commissions and to do the legislation work with the 103 Capitulars. He also expressed his words of thanks for the new leadership of the Order of Preachers Most Rev. Fr. Gerard Francisco Timonor III OP as 88th Master of the Order. He said that Fr. Gerard is first Asian successor of our Holy Father St. Dominic and already has been serving as socius for Asia Pacific. At the end Fr. Akhtar Naveed OP thanked the Dominican cloistered nuns for their time and availability and fr. Younas Shahzad said prayer for the departed soul of late Fr. Augustine and thankful for the faith enriched mission apostolates of the sisters in the entire world particularly in Pakistan. Tea was served to all the friars.
Fasting, Almsgiving and Food Distribution

Lent is a season of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. In this holy season, every Christian is obliged to repent upon the sins and confess their faults before the Lord. On Feb. 25, 2020, one-day seminar was held at St. Dominic's Catholic Church, Bahawalpur. Fr. Iftikhar Moon, OP the Parish Priest of St. Dominic's Catholic Church, Bahawalpur was the organizer. The participants were parishners, hostel boys and girls, teachers, brothers, priests and sisters. Bro. Irfan Christ, O.P was the commentator. Fr. Maris Javed, O.P (Prior of St. Dominic’s Priory) and Fr. Yasir Paul, O.P (Principal of St. Dominic Convent Higher Secondary Boys School) were the facilitators. Fr. Maris explained fasting according to the Church Law whereas Fr. Yasir explored the dignity and benefits of the fasting in the light of the Holy Bible. During the seminar Lenten hymns were sung. In the concluding session of the seminar, there was time for questions. Youth members were very active to ask questions from the facilitators and parish priest. They answered to their questions in a very satisfactory way. At the end of this seminar, parish priest, Fr. Iftikhar Moon thanked all participants specially expressed his gratitude to the facilitators who enriched the minds and hearts of the audience with their precious and golden thoughts. On Easter Day, April 12, 2020, the Government Officials of Bahawalpur District distributed food items to the poor Christian families with the assistance of Fr. Iftikhar Moon OP.

Annual Sports Gala and Speech Competition

at Govt. Willayat Hussain Islamia Degree College Multan

In the month of February 2020, Government Willayat Hussain College organized an annual Sports Gala and a Speech Competition. The students of Louis Hall Dominican House of Formation Multan participated in the competitions with great enthusiasm. Three of our students namely Jameel Samuel, Sanwal Ram and Ahsan Christ got positions in the Annual Sports Competition. Jameel Samuel got first position in Ping Pong (Table Tennis), Ahsan Christ got second position in Table Tennis and Sanwal Ram got third position in 200 Meters Race. Sanwal Ram and Anosh Sajjad and Naem Saleem got prizes in the Kabbadi tournament in the college. The Principal Dr. Fareed Sharif and Professors were very happy with the performance of our students. Our students were honored with Trophies and medals in the college.
Our student Ezan Sohail got first position in Debate and Speech competition in the College. Ezan Sohail also received a Trophy and Merit Certificate from Dr. Farced Sharif, on March 04, 2020. Dr. Farced Sharif congratulated Fr. Irfan Jerome OP (the Director, Louis Hall Dominican House of Formation) and Fr. Haroon Ilyas OP (the Assistant Director) for the active participation and brilliant performance of our students in the Annual Sports Gala and Speech Competition. He said that we are proud of the students of Louis Hall Dominican House of Formation who not only produce good results in the exams but also contribute in the extra curriculum activities. Fr. Irfan Jerome OP appreciated the students and thanked the Principal and staff for their cooperation in the education and formation of young Dominican students.

Seminar on “The Lenten Season and its Spirituality”

(Novice Ashir Paulus & Shahzaib Fabian)

A Seminar on Lenten season and its spirituality was organized on 25th Feb 2020, at Holy Rosary Parish Warispura. The parish priest Rev. Fr Paschal Paulus OP invited very Rev. Fr Younas Shahzad, OP (Prior Vice Province of Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province Pakistan) to enlighten our hearts with the spirituality of the season of Lent. On this seminar the community of Holy Rosary Priory, Dominican sisters of St. Catherine, Charity Sisters, Medical Mission Sisters and large number of people from all over the Parish actively participated in the seminar.

In the beginning very, Rev Fr Younas Shahzad was given a warm and wonderful welcome by Rev. Fr Paschal Paulus and the faithful of the Parish. In his talk, Fr Younas said that Lenten season is very sacred, blessed and grace filled season in the Church. This beautiful season invites us to flourish rapidly in spiritual discipline by doing sacred works such as; fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. It is a great opportunity for us to contemplate on the Paschal mystery (Suffering, Death, and Resurrection) and to reflect on the Cross because Cross is the source of all blessings and graces.
Moreover, Fr. Younas shared the purpose of Lenten season and said that, in the life of the Christians, the motive of the Lenten season is the preparation of Easter through prayer, penance, and mortification of the flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving and self-denial. These spiritual activities enhance our faith and help us to make strong affinity with our heavenly Father.

Furthermore, Fr. Younas elaborated the Saying of St. Augustine, that if we have keen desire and inner vision that our prayers and supplications shall reach to our gracious Father, add the wings of fasting and almsgiving to prayer. Along with this Fr. Younas described, that this is an essential period to reflect and experience the life of Jesus Christ closely, particularly His Passion, Death and Resurrection. He also quoted Mother Teresa, who said that lent season is a magnificent time when we feel the suffering of our redeemer in our own bodies. In addition to his talk, he said that during Lent, Christians commit to fasting as well as give up certain luxuries in order to replicate the account of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ's journey into the desert for forty days. At the end, Fr Paschal Paulus, OP thanked Fr Younas Shahzad, OP for giving us exquisite seminar on Lenten season and its spirituality.

Annual Assembly
of the Ibn-e-Mariam Vice-Province Pakistan

The annual assembly of the Ibn-e-Mariam Vice-Province Pakistan was held on 2nd of March and was concluded on 3rd of March 2020 with the thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebration. This annual assembly was arranged at the Ibn-e-Mariam Dominican House of Studies Pak-Arab Lahore. The participants of this annual assembly included administrative team along with priors, superiors of the houses, directors of the institutes, principals of the schools and parish priests. The purpose of this annual assembly was to evaluate the activities and see the progress of vice province during the year 2019, and to plan a strategy to overcome the challenges which were faced throughout the previous year. This annual assembly was also helpful for all the officials to look at their contribution for the development of the our vice province.
The annual assembly was organized by the Vice Provincial and his council. On the first day, all the officials presented their annual reports. In their reports, they mentioned their achievements and accomplishments. On the other hand, they also pointed out some of the challenges which were faced to accomplish their work. On the second day of the annual assembly, all the officials were divided into different groups according to the category of their responsibilities in the light of given questions. The task that was assigned to them was to plan for the coming year 2020-2021. In the group discussion the following theme were prominently discussed namely, quick and clear communication, quality of education and character building through our schools, better formation of our candidates, projects writings for different needs, reviewing the contracts with bishops and finding ways to overcome economic crisis.

In the end Very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP Prior Vice Provincial thanked all the friars for their availability for the annual assembly. He also acknowledged and appreciated all the officials who have been rendering their services to the mission of Christ in the way of St. Dominic.

Promoter for Justice and Peace at Asia-Pacific Level

From March 7-13, 2020, Justice and peace meeting on Asia-Pacific level for Dominican Family was conducted at 'De Meester Residences', St. Theresa's College, Manila, Philippines. The organizers of the training were Sr. Theresa OP, and Fr. Victor Calvo Jr, Op. All the participants were warmly welcomed and basic information about training were shared. Participants of the training were from Solomon Island, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, and Taiwan. Guest speakers were Fr. Gerard Timonor, OP (Master of the Order), Fr. Pablo Carlos Sicouly, OP (Socius for Intellectual Life), Sister Raffaela Petrini FSC (Rome), Sr. Margret Mayce, OP, Sr. Teresa Dagdag, MM, Mr. Rodino Galicha (Environmentalist, Filipino), Mr. Jesus “Jabee” Ganganera, Maria Cecilia Flores Oeband (Global philanthropy forum), and Sr. Cecilia Espenilla, OP, Fr. Nadeem Joseph, OP, Fr. Nasir Emanuel, OP, Sr. Najma Martha & Sr. Kaeez were participants from Pakistan.

On 8 March 2020, Sunday Holy Mass was celebrated by Master of the Order Fr. Gerard Timonor OP. on the same day Justice and peace group (Dominican family) according to their plan visited Manila.

All the participants from different countries were asked to present their country reports following “PESTEL” Model (Political, Economic, Social, Theological, environmental, and legal factors). Each country representative presented
their “Pestel” analyses using power point presentation. It was very enriching time to learn the different aspects of life at Asia-pacific level.

In this historical occasion Master of the Order Fr. Gerard Timonor, OP spoke about the “Justice and Peace in the Dominican Life” At the beginning of our life in the Order, we were asked one question: “what do you seek?”; “we prostrated, and with our noses on the floor of the church, we responded: “God's mercy and yours””. We are Dominicans because of God's mercy. If our lives as Dominicans began with that primordial desire to obtain mercy, then our ministry, our apostolate, as Dominicans, ought to proceed from the same impetus”. Witnessing to Christ's love and mercy through works of Justice, Peace and Care of Creation is part of evangelization, which requires “organization”. We recall that when St. Dominic was moved with compassion for those who suffered during a famine, he did not only sell his precious books, he “established a center for almsgiving…” which inspired others to do the same. Jordan of Saxony, Libellus, 10.

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37. [EXHORTATION] The work for Justice and Peace is “a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel” (cf. Synod 1971 “Justice in the world”, 6). We urge our friars to: … ; collaborate with the International Dominican Network against Trafficking in Persons promoted by Dominicans Sisters International (DSI); and promote the Salamanca Process methodology. The immediate objective is the liberation and rehabilitation of all who are entangled in human trafficking. The ultimate goal is to dismantle and eradicate this most evil and sinful enterprise of deception, entrapment, domination and exploitation. If we can save one child, one victim, one life, then our efforts together would be worth it.

Albert Einstein Said

“The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything”

On last day all the Justice and peace prompter of each country delegate were asked to prepare the plan of action for implementing this training at their country level. All prepared action plan and shared with all participations with the commitment to pursue our Dominican legacy and identity keeping Salamanca process through our apostolates.

“Women's Day Celebration”

(Novice Amir Peter & Zeeshan Francis)

“Just as a woman had announced the words of death to the first man, so also a woman was the first to announce to the apostles the words of life.” (St. Thomas Aquinas)

On 8th March, 2020, Holy Rosary Parish organized a program on International Women's Day to pay tribute to all women. Fr Pascal Paulus OP the Parish Priest of Holy Rosary Parish offered the Holy Mass for all women. Fr Pascal Paulus OP shared during the homily that mother Mary is the role model for all the Christian women because Mother Mary is called
a model of love, care, sacrifice, grace and beauty of nature. He also appreciated the achievements of women in various fields such as Economic, Politics and social line. Furthermore, Fr. Pascal said that the celebration of this day expresses our respect, appreciation and love towards the greatest women like St Teresa, Sister Doctor Ruth Pfau. At the end of his homily, Fr encouraged all women of the parish who are working and struggling in parish to get achievements in different fields of life. After Holy Mass, different organizations presented awards to the women of our Parish who have achieved great ranks in their lives. In the end, Fr Pascal Paulus OP expressed words of gratitude and thanked all the organizations for appreciating the women because these women are honor for parish and our Christian society. The celebration ended with the cake cutting and refreshment offered at the Holy Rosary Priory Warispura, Faisalabad.

Celebration of the Feast of Holi
at Mundi Yazman Bahawalpur

Miss Alishba Marcus

on 9th of March Annual Holi (A Hindu Feast Day) celebration was held at Chak 18/DNB and Chak 62/DB. Every year this feast day comes in the very beginning of spring season. In this season everywhere, we see lots of flowers are blooming and beautifying the nature. Mostly Hindu communities of Mundi Yazman start their celebration one evening before. On the Holi vigil all the Hindu families spend their night in Bakhti and Puja. Though the Hindu community of Mundi Yazman is very poor but still every house manages to cook some sweet item on this feast. Children express their joys roaming in the streets and by shouting the Holi greetings.

With that all Hindu greeted each other by throwing the beautiful colors on each other. All the streets were decorated with different colors and flags. This feast is the feast of unity. Babu Yousaf Parbu and Miss Alishba (Co-Ordinator of Dominican Tribal Mission) also visited different Hindu communities and schools to distribute sweets and chocolates among them. Due to stormy Weather Deacon Bashir Francis OP was unable to participate in that occasion but he sent some gifts for the poor people to make their feast joyful.
Deacon Bashir Francis OP celebrated this feast day with his Hindu students who were in St. Dominic's Hostel because they don't have any national holiday from Government institutions. Due to preparation of upcoming board exams these students were unable to visit their families. To double their joy of the feast day of Holi, Deacon Bashir baked a special cake for them and celebrated with his students in different colors. He is very active in promoting harmony between Christian and Hindu students. He always provides environment of peace and atmosphere of love to indorse human and Christian values.

Deacon Bashir Francis asked the special blessings of Heavenly Father for all Hindu brothers and sisters on their special feast day of Holi.

Promotion of Peace through Religious Harmony

A program was held on 14th March 2020 at Jamia Anwar-ul-Uloom Sahiwal

Jamia Anwar-Ul-Uloom Sahiwal called the different religion leaders of the District to show solidarity and convey the message of peace among the people of Sahiwal. This program was led by Mufti Sohail Shaukat of Jamia's Vice Principal with collaboration of Active Youth Group of Sacred Heart Catholic Church Sahiwal. In this program, Rev.Fr. Zahid Augustine OP (Parish Priest Sacred Heart Parish), Pastor Kashif Naveed, Moderator ARP mission, Sardar Needan Singh, Khalsa Singh Sangat Pakistan, Ps Noel, Ps Azhar, Babu Asif Iqbal, Zafar Sunil, Aneel Younas, Shammas Nazeel and Human Rights Activist Ashiknaz Khokhar participated.

Mufti Sohail Shaukat said that purpose of this program is to strengthen the unity of religious leaders and promote the message of peace via religious scholars. He laid emphasis on the importance of citizens' role in promotion of peace and tolerance. He said that if the strong one does not strengthen the weak, the concept of equality is impossible.

Fr. Zahid Augustine OP described the need of peace and how Catholics are making efforts to teach and promote love among parishners. Furthermore, he said that interfaith harmony is the way forward towards peace and prosperity in the society, as coexistence and diversity is the beauty of our society.

Ps. Kashif said that his team is planning for something very practical for the promotion of peace and harmony. He highlighted the importance of respecting all religions and sects.
Ashiknaz Khokhar told that dialogue is the only way forward to resolve issues, he added that religious leaders and scholars being the custodians of their religions' teachings, can play a vital role in promoting rule of law and tolerance in the society. He concluded saying that interfaith harmony is the first roadmap for tolerance. Sardar Needan Singh shared his views saying that it is the need of the hour to deal with the followers of all religions justly and equally. As a multi-religion state, Pakistan cannot afford any discrimination, imbalance and ignoring attitudes towards religious minorities. At the end of the program Fr. Zahid Augustine OP appreciated the good gesture of love and unity by the Muslim leaders and assured his full support and cooperation in the promotion of Peace and Harmony among the various religions of Pakistan. The program was ended with the dinner offered by Mufti Sohail Shaukat.

Lenten Season and Charity Distribution during COVID-19

Lenten season is a very blessed season which gives us time to pray, to keep fast, to repent, to give alms and to reflect on the passions and death of Jesus Christ on the Cross. On the other hand, whole world is suffering from COVID-19 or epidemic Corona Virus. In this situation poor and needy are suffering due to lock down. They have no work and no way to earn money.

Pope Francis Said,

“True charity requires courage; Let us overcome the fear of getting our hands dirty so as to help those in need”

While following the tradition of the Dominican Order very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP (Prior Vice Provincial) and Rev. Fr. Patrick Peter OP arranged charity for some needy families of Asif Town Lahore, who are really in need of food. Rev. Fr. Patrick Peter OP bought all the grocery items and Student brothers prepared food bags for needy families. Sr. Shaneela Rafique OP (Principle of St. Dominic School Asif Town, Lahore) requested very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP to distribute charity among the poor and needy families of Asif Town, Lahore. The charity distribution was started with prayer and Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP prayed for the suffering world and all those who died due to COVID-19. On April 06, 2020 very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP (Prior vice Provincial), Rev. Fr. Patrick Peter OP, Rev. Fr. Nasir Emmanuel OP, Bro. Perkash Dominic OP and Sr. Shaneela with her community members distributed charity among the poor and needy families.

The people were very thankful after receiving this small token of love. At the end, very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP (Prior vice Provincial) thanked and appreciated Rev. Fr. Patrick Peter OP, Sr. Shaneela OP and Student Brothers for their collaboration and support.
Ibn-e-Mariam
Vice Province Pakistan

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