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From The Desk of Editor

My dear brothers and sisters in St. Dominic,

Greetings of peace to all of you!

Let us thank the Lord Jesus Christ for all his bountiful blessings such as life, Christian faith, family and specially for our religious call as Dominicans. Our vocation and mission is to preach the Word of God, through the witnesses of our lives and by various apostolates.

By the grace of God and through your innumerable efforts the 3rd edition of our Dominican News Letter for the year 2019 is in your hands. It covers the spiritual, pastoral, intellectual and social activities of three months October, November and December 2019. I would like to acknowledge the vital role of Very Rev. fr. Younas Shahzad OP (Prior Vice Provincial), Rev. fr. Raphael Mehnga OP, Br. Perkash Dominic OP and publishing team for accomplishing this News Letter and at the same time I am grateful to all the friars of Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province of Pakistan for their keen interest, support and reports which they sent.

The month of October has a great significance in two ways, firstly, this month is dedicated to Mother Mary, who is not only the mother of Jesus but also of the faithful people of God. She is a model of faith, obedience, simplicity and humility. She is a mother of Dialogue; through dialogue she was able to understand the will of God and participated in the Mission of salvation of the whole humanity. Through dialogue she convinced her son to perform his first miracle at the weeding of Cana. In all the parishes administered by Dominicans, the Marian pilgrimages were arranged to venerate Mother Mary. We look at Jesus with the eyes of Mary in order to do the will of God.

Secondly, this month reminds us of our mission as a baptized Christians. Our holy father Pope Francis declared October 2019 to be an Extra Ordinary Missionary Month so that we may review and renew our missionary commitment as Christians and Dominicans.

Our Master of the Order, Most. Rev. fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner III OP declared, December 2019 as Dominican Month for Peace and Very Rev. fr. Younas Shahzad OP has asked all the Dominican communities and parishes to celebrate this month for the intension of the Master of the Order so that peace may prevail in the world especially in India and occupied Kashmir. Let us, be a channel of peace and source of joy for others, putting Christ infront of us as a King of Peace.

In December, we prepare ourselves for the advent of Christ. Advent is a time of re-awakening, confessing our sins, forgiving others, and coming together, as Jesus comes from heaven to live amongst us. If we are fully prepared only then Christmas becomes for us a time of great joy, peace, love, and celebration. Let us be open and generous and share this joy with others because by sharing our joy is doubled. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous Year 2020.
Dear Brothers,
Christmas Greetings to all of you!
Peace, Joy, and Consolation

I am grateful to God for his bountiful blessings which he showered upon each member of the Ibn-e-Mariam Vice-Province of Pakistan throughout the year of 2019. The season of Christmas is a time to share the Good News of the birth of Jesus with others. With Immense joy and delightful heart, I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year 2020. In the Gospel of Luke 2:10-11 “The Angel said to them, ‘Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you Good News of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

Christmas is a time of great joy and good tidings. Like shepherds, we are given a Good News and we ought to share this Good News with all humanity as preachers of the Word that Jesus Christ, the King of Peace is born as Savior of the World. God's assuming our humanity in Jesus and being born in a manger is incredible. He has come to bring peace and reconciliation between man and God as mediator. The world of today especially the people of Pakistan needs peace, hope, love, joy, and reconciliation. May this Christmas bring the gift of peace, hope, joy, and love to our communities and to the entire world!

The year 2019 brought many blessings to our Vice-Province. In March 2019 Fr. Pascal Paulus completed his tenure of two terms and Fr. Younas Shahzad was elected as a new Prior Vice Provincial. On the completion of 9 years term of Fr. Bruno Cadore OP in July Fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner was elected as a new Master of the Order by the General Chapter of Bien Hua in Vietnam. I got an opportunity to witness this great historical event. Thanking Fr. Gerard Timoner OP for his services as Socius for Asia Pacific Region we welcome him as our New Master General. In August Seven Dominican Novices made their Simple Profession, three friars made their final profession, nine pre-novices commenced their novitiate, Bro. Perkash completed his four years of theology studies, three brothers completed their philosophy studies and Fr. Zeeshan was ordained to priesthood. Fr. Naveed and Shahzad left in October for Bologna (Italy) for their Licentiate Studies. They are assigned in the Priory of Bologna, are doing six months Intensive Italian Course and will start their studies in October 2020. Thanks to the friars who helped us to bring out two issues of Dominican News Letters and supported us to start our website. Thanks to Mr. Sohail Sharif the accountant and Bro. Perkash OP the office secretary for their constant efforts with full determination to assist in the office work

We are glad that Fr. Amirtha Raj OP is appointed to be a new Socius for Asia Pacific Region. He is willing to come for canonical visitation to Pakistan in the year 2020 along with Socius for Intellectual Life and Socius for Apostolic Life to visit our formation houses and to meet the formators and other communities. We
wholeheartedly welcome Fr. Amirtha Raj as new Socius and assure him of our full cooperation and support. We expect the visit of Fr. Nicolas Tixier OP the French Provincial along with the Regent and Master of Students from 14 to 19 March 2020 to talk about collaboration in formation and to talk about three simple professed brothers for Philosophy and Theology Studies in France. We are thankful to the Provincial of Spain for accepting two Final Professed Student-Brothers Arj and Akash to study theology in Spain. Hopefully, they will go to Spain in the month of March 2020. We wish our brothers good luck in their future study endeavors. We congratulate Fr. Marcus Daniel OP on his Priestly Silver Jubilee and Fr. Rehmat Raja and Siddique Mark Sunder on the Golden Jubilee of their Novitiate. We are happy that Fr. Georgio Pitalis will be coming to visit Pakistan in the second week of January and will stay with us for four weeks.

On the other hand, there have been some sad incidents as well. Fr. Naveed Arif asked for three years of excastration leave to join the Diocese of Hamilton in Canada which was granted. May he be happy wherever he serves! In April, Bro. Sarat's mother departed, In June Mr. Zafer Masih father of brother Adil Francisco, in November Mr. Aslam Masih (Brother of fr. Akhtar Naveed OP died; in December Mr. Punnu Gill (Daddy of fr. Nadeem Joseph OP.,) and Ilyas Mehar (Daddy of fr. Harron Ilyas OP.,) went to heaven. May the souls of our departed dear and near ones rest in peace and their families get comfort and consolations!

Fr. Gerard Timoner OP, Master of the Order in his Christmas message written on 22nd of December 2019 on the occasion of the anniversary of the confirmation of the Order of Preacher said that “Charismas is not just a celebration but a mission”. On this time of joy and peace let us continue our Dominican Mission of saving the souls by Praising, Blessing and Preaching the Good News.
Fraternally yours,

Fr. Younas Shahzad, OP,
Prior Vice Provincial,
Ibn-e-Mariam Vice-Province Pakistan
This letter was circulated to all the friars of Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province of Pakiatan at the blessed occasion of Christmas 2019.
Bartolome Fernandes was born in Lisbon on May 3rd, 1514. He took the nickname “the martyrs” in memory of the Church of Santa Maria dei Martin where he was baptized and where his grandfather took him to pray every day. After vestation (November 11th, 1528), he made his novitiate at the convent of Lisbon and completed his studies of philosophy and theology in 1538. He later became a lector at the convent of Lisbon and later in convents of Batalha and Evora (1538-1557). Finally, he was elected prior of the convent “de Benfica” in Lisbon (1557-1558). He was appointed Master in Sacred Theology by the General Chapter of Salamanca in 1551, a very important chapter because among the eight Masters in theology, the famous was Bartholome Carranza de Miranda, whom Bartholomew himself defended in Trent against the condemnation of the Spanish Inquisition. In 1559, he was elected Archbishop of Braga on the recommendation of Catharine of Habsburg and on the advice of the Servant of God, Luis de Granada, his brother, friend and future biographer. From 1561 to 1563, he participated in the council of Trent, where he became one of its main actors and protagonists, particular with regard to the reform of the clergy and bishops. Back in Braga, despite the very strong and repeated opposition of the local clergy, he deployed all his zeal to reform the diocese in the spirit of the Tridentine decrees, convening in 1564 the diocesan Synod and, in 1566 the Provincial Synod. In 1571 or 1572 the construction of the seminary of the Council began in Campo Vinha. On February 23rd 1582 he resigned as Archbishop and Primate of Spain and retired to the Dominican Convent of Santa Cruz in Viana do Castelo, (which he founded himself in 1561) to devote himself with humility and poverty to studies, prayers and preaching. It was there that he died, as a simple brother. On July, 1590, the whole city already acclaimed him as the holy archbishop, father of the poor and the sick. His tomb is currently in the Church of Santa Cruz in Viana do Castelo.

Saint John Paul II beatified him on November 4th, 2001, the feast of Saint Charles Borromeo, of whom Bartholomew was friend and master. Their meeting in Rome was decisive for the young Milanese cardinal, not only because he confirmed his choice to leave the Roman Curia and go to Milan to exercise his Episcopal ministry, but also, he undertook the reform of the Ambrosian Diocese, thanks to Bartholomew's advice and example.

Bartholomew of the martyrs is one of the most important figures in the history of the Church in the first modern era. As Archbishop of Braga, he participated in the Council of Trent and it was through his presence and interventions that the Council approved the decree on the reform of the episcopate. He embodied a model of the new bishop born of the Catholic reformation, and a pastor according to the evangelical model of the late Bartholomew, who already in his lifetime enjoyed an excellent reputation for holiness among his contemporaries. But his holiness, universally recognized today cannot be limited to the sphere of the pastoral
ministry carried out for years in the local church of Braga in Portugal and vigorously defended in its integrity at the Council of Trent, and it must also be understood and revealed in the other areas of his earthly life.; a humble and poor son of St. Dominic; an assiduous reader of the Holy Scripture and a profound connoisseur of theology and spirituality; a learned teacher, ready to dispense doctrine, as well as what he had learned in his studies and prayer, with clarity and eloquence, a religious, contemplative and apostolic at the same time, perfect witness to this traditional and known definition of the priest brother who goes back to St. Thomas Aquinas, according to which the charism of the Dominican is that of Contemplarie et contemplet aliis tradere.

His canonization requested in the past with such tenacity by the Portuguese Church and the Order of Preachers, is based on the conviction that the latter and the whole church needed such a saint; remembering the example of his life is important to deepen Dominican Spirituality, the ministerial priesthood, the Episcopal munus and the spirit of service and renunciation that always characterizes him in his commitment to the Church and the people who are entrusted to him.

The importance of his message to the pastors of the Church, never tarnished and always uninterrupted over the centuries was confirmed in the gesture of St. Paul VI at end of the Second Vatican Council, when he gave each father of the Council a copy of the Bartholomew's book, Stimulus Postorum. Today, it is surprising to see the undeniable closeness between the content of the writings on the Episcopal ministry of our Blessed, the lifestyle assumed before and after his appointment as Archbishop of Braga, the indomitable attitude towards the work of evangelization and reform and the magisterium of the current Pontiff, Pope Francis who from the very first declaration and speeches, had the opportunity to linger with new accents and original images on the pastoral style of each priest who according to him must model himself on the image of the pastor who always defends and guides the sheep entrusted to him and to whom he consecrates and offers his life.
Administration, supervision, inspection, and visitation are the best approaches to enhance the quality of work in any field. Especially in the school culture, these aspects promote the quality of education by administering, supervising educational goals, management, and teaching-learning activities. Considering it valuable, Very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP (Prior Vice Provincial of Ibn-e-Mariam Vice-Province of Pakistan) administrator of the Dominican schools in Pakistan, visited St. Dominic Convent Higher Secondary School Bahawalpur on 23rd of September 2019, accompanied by his Socius Rev. Fr. Shakeel Michael OP.

In the morning a beautiful program on International Day of Peace was organized by the school staff and students. Rev. Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP (Principal), Rev. Fr. Yasir Paul OP (Vice Principal), and Rev. Fr. Maris Javed OP, (Prior of St. Dominic’s Priory, Bahawalpur), took Fr. Younas Shahzad OP and Fr. Shakeel Michael OP to the School. At the entrance of the school, a warm welcome was given to them with the school band and flowers, and in a ceremony, an official salute was presented to them by the students. Then friars, professors, teachers and students also expressed their joy to the honorable guests by presenting flowers and garlands. Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP presented a Sindhi cap and Ajrak to very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP.

The students presented their speeches on the International Day of Peace and highlighted the importance of global peace by our peaceful living. In his official address to the teachers and the students, Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP shared his valuable thoughts by wishing them Happy International Peace Day. He inspired the teachers and students by his effective ideas. Regarding education, he said that good results and character
building of the students are top priorities of the Dominicans. Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP then thanked Fr. Younas Shahzad OP and Fr. Shakeel Michael OP for their visitation.

After the program, Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP and Fr. Yasir Paul OP invited the Prior Vice-Provincial and his Socius to different classes and showed them different activities of the students and teachers. They demonstrated the techniques, skills, models, approaches which are used by teachers in classrooms. Fr. Provincial also interacted with the teachers and students and asked various questions regarding their studies and facilities provided by the school administration. He observed different sorts of artwork, science, agricultural activities and models prepared by the students. During tea break, the priestly ordination anniversary of Fr. Yasir Paul OP was also celebrated with the staff.

In the end, Fr. Younas Shahzad OP shared his observations and expressed his joy as he was quite happy by the better performance of the teachers and students' learning and sharing. He appreciated the principal, vice-principal and all the teachers for their hard work and better planning, busy and regular schedules of teaching, better performance, target approaches and result oriented goals. He wished them good luck for a bright future.
Celebration of Novices Day

Novice Mudabbar Cornelius
& Novice Youab Anthony

A call to be God's servant is a gift for humanity and novitiate is the best time to knock at God's door for the entrance in religious life. The main purpose of novitiate according to (LCO # 177) is “a time of probation directed to this purpose, namely that the novices may come to know more deeply their divine and indeed Dominican vocation, experience the Order’s way of life, may be formed in the Dominican spirit in mind and heart, and manifest their intention and suitability to the brethren.”

The day of Novitiate was held on 9th of September 2019. Before starting the Holy Mass all novices (male and female) prepared the Altar and shared the holy prayer with the people. Bro. Shahzaib and Bro. Mudabbar led the choir with all the novices. Fr Shakeel Michael OP (the Novice Master) offered the Holy Mass. All Novices, Postulants and Sisters participated with great fervent. Introduction of the holy mass was given by Bro. Youab Anthony and reading was recited by Bro. Kamran Stephen. Sisters’ novices presented intercessions and brought the offerings. Afterward, all novices were greeted by Fr. Shakeel Michael and Sisters. It was magnificent time full of joy and enrichment that was bestowed by God. At the end of the holy mass, Fr. Shakeel Michael took a group photo and made a plan to visit the Gat-wala Park.

In the afternoon at 3:30 all set out to Gat-wala there we enjoyed the company of all Novices, Sisters and Fr Shakeel Michael OP. Before returning back to our respective places, the gifts were distributed.
Seminar on Capacity Building

at Dominican House New Garden Town Lahore

Very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP (Prior Vice Provincial) took the initiative of arranging three days seminar for the young friars from 1st to 3rd October 2019 at New Garden Town, Provincialate, Lahore, on capacity building so that, they may come to know their strengths and their needs. In this special seminar, 11 young friars participated from various communities of the Ibn-e-Mariam Vice-Province Pakistan. On the first day of the seminar, the welcoming speech was addressed by Fr. Younas Shahzad OP, he appreciated all the participants for their availability.

The facilitators of the seminar were Mr. Tasawar Younas Gill (Chief Executive of Star Organization) and Mr. Ghufar Akhtar (Project Coordinator of Award Organization). The following topics were discussed during the seminar; how to make a profile, how to make an assessment of needs and how to identify the area of need. These topics were explained by Mr. Tasawar Younas Gill. While addressing to the participants he said, capacity building is a network of our relationships. The profile is an information, introduction, map or picture and it should be always confidential. In a detailed way, he illustrated everything about his topic. He also shared his personal motivational experiences how he started from the zero value and made great achievements.
On the second day of the seminar, Mr. Ghufar Akhtar gave the enriching talk on the writing of “concept note.” He said that concept note is a summary of a proposal and a brief outline of the proposed project. It contains a short description of the idea of the project and the objectives to be persuaded. The sequence of the concept note goes like this, Name of the Organization, Title of the Proposed Project, Potential Donor, Context, Rationale for the Proposed Project, Project Goals and Objectives, Project Strategy/Listing of Project Activities, Expected Results, innovation and how it is different from earlier projects?, Organizational Background, including the expertise and experience, Budget Estimate, Complete Contact Information of the NGO along with the name of the Contact Person. He did justice to his topic by enhancing the knowledge of the participants.

On the last day of the seminar, the group activities were arranged for the participants on profile making and writing of the concept notes. All the participants presented different projects with their proposals which were well appreciated by facilitators. They also shared their leaning from the seminar. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP concluded the last session with vote of thanks to the facilitators and the participants. He said, to the young friars, by using these skills, you will hopefully be more beneficial for the Vice Province in future.
A seminar on Church Management from 6-11 October 2019 was organized at the Pastoral Institute, Multan for lay men and women working at key administrative and management levels in Catholic organizations, for diocesan curia and chancery officials, and for religious who have community or financial leadership positions in their congregations.

Church Management course was focused on implementing the requirements of both Canon Law and civil law in the administration and management of the finances, goods and properties of the Catholic Church. Fr. Brian Lucas (Former Secretary. Australian Episcopal Conference; National Director, Pontifical mission Societies Australia; leading canon lawyer with specialization in Church Management), emphasized in his sessions that how our work in the Church institute could be relevant to the administration and management of dioceses, education, healthcare, and the works of religious communities. In his talks he focused on the Protection and Safeguarding of Minors and Vulnerable Adults.

The second speaker Sr. Antoinette Baldwin (Sister of St Joseph; educator; Healthcare Quality Coordinator) said that we as church leaders, administrator who hold management positions in Catholic organizations in Pakistan must have professional skills to maintain the Catholic identity of our educational and healthcare institutions. Moreover it will help to meet challenges and to invigorate Catholic institutions in Pakistan according to the Church's mission.
On 15th October 2019 Interfaith Council for Peace and Harmony, Pakistan organized National Interfaith Peace Conference with the collaboration of Federal Ministry Religious & Minorities Affairs Pakistan at Marriott Hotel Islamabad. Religious scholars, representatives of Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikh communities, social activists, diplomats of various countries and people from different walks of life participated in the conference. The host of the National Interfaith Peace Conference was Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad Grand Imam Royal Mosque Lahore. Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad welcomed all participants and shared the objectives of the National Interfaith Peace Conference 2019. He said that Pakistan is a great country for interfaith harmony. It was his father who established the foundation of interfaith harmony in Pakistan and today it has become a global phenomenon. Maulana Azad said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has fulfilled his due right in representing millions of people of Pakistan and Kashmir.

Rev. Fr. James Channan OP (Director Peace Center Lahore & Regional Coordinator URI Pakistan) said that I feel much honored to be invited for this conference. This conference is of prime importance during the times we are going through. Pakistan is a country of believers of different religions. Religious minorities reflect the beauty of our country. Such interfaith encounters offer opportunities to build bridges of respect tolerance, compassion, and acceptance among religions. Such encounters help us to break the walls of violence, discrimination and nonacceptance of the other. It is wonderful to see that such kind of conferences are being organized around the globe. I congratulate to Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad for organizing this grand conference in Islamabad. He said that Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad is an International personality which is known for his great works of interfaith and Christian – Muslim dialogue in the country and around the world. He enjoys great respect among the people of all religions in Pakistan and around the globe. He is a model of harmony and peace among religions and cultures. He also played a very active role to solve the problems of Christian in Pakistan.I admire the efforts of our government, Your Excellency as President of Pakistan and H.E. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan and armed forces and of course all people of Pakistan for the freedom of occupied Kashmir. I am sure with your able leadership the decade's old issue of Kashmir will be solved soon and our brothers and sisters of Kashmir will see the dawn of freedom. Your Excellency, in Pakistan efforts of interfaith and Christian-Muslim dialogue
are bearing much fruit but much more is needed. My recommendation is that reject all forms of terrorism and radicalism, reject hate material and speeches, prohibit misuse of loudspeakers, and strongly recommend full participation of women in every field, full protection to minorities in following their religion and having the freedom of religions and expression. It would be great if the Paigham-e-Pakistan is made part of the Curriculum of our schools and Madaris.

President of Pakistan Dr. Arif-Ur-Rehman Alawi said that interfaith harmony has become the need of all nations. The world has shrunken to a bigger society. The role of interfaith harmony is of great importance for the strong relations of the world nations. He said that there is a need for inter-religious harmony among nations and countries at the international level. All minorities in Pakistan are fully protected through legal and constitutional rights. He said that the role of religious scholars is important for harmony, promoting peace and brotherhood in the society. He said that through their character they can make a balanced and moderate society. President Pakistan Dr. Arif-Ur-Rehman Alawi said that Pakistan is the land of equal opportunities for the followers of all religions where the people of all religions have the same rights and opportunities. He said that “Our forefathers had set the best examples of justice, tolerance, and interfaith harmony”. The present government is also committed to protect the rights of religious minorities as equal citizens of Pakistan.

Dr. Arif Alvi also appreciated the role of Pope in denouncing the western countries' behavior towards immigrants. Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Noor ul Haq Qadri said that today's program is very promising. Pakistan is a peaceful country where all religions are in harmony and it promotes religious harmony at all levels. He said that Islam gives great importance to tolerance and harmony. He said the constitution of Pakistan guarantees minorities rights. Representatives of various religions and sects Maulana Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad, Archbishop of Lahore Sebastian Shah, Fr.James Channan OP, Hafiz Kazim Raza Naqvi, Roberto Barsoluso of Italy, Prof. Dr. Ahmad Darwaish, Iman Qasim Rasheed, Dr.Bishop Alexander John Malik, Sardar Janam Singh, Pandit Cham Lal while speaking on the occasion called for interfaith harmony and unity to promote sustainable peace in the country. The speakers called for the promotion of respect for religions among people for durable peace in society. They said the presence of the people from all faiths in the event showed that they are united and would join hands to promote peace, tolerance, and love for each other. Mr.Asher Nazir Executive Secretary URI and Sr.Sabina Rifat Coordinator URI Women Wing participated in the conference as URI Pakistan Regional staff.

President of Pakistan Dr. Arif-Ur-Rehman Alawi presented the National Peace Award 2019 to Rev. Fr. James Channan OP for his great services to promote peace and interfaith harmony among different religions in Pakistan. President of Pakistan appreciated and congratulated to Fr. James Channan OP that he worked to provide the facility to the people of different professions and age groups to come together for dialogue, which helps to remove discrimination, fundamentalism, and extremism from our society.
Ziarat-e-Muqadsa Mariam and Feast of the Holy Rosary Parish Warispura, FSD

Novices Amir Peter & Shahzaib Fabian

The Holy Rosary Parish celebrated its 18th annual pilgrimage on 12th to 14th October 2019 with full vim and vigor. Many Organizations and Schools took active part in this pilgrimage. The friars of the Holy Rosary Priory also contributed their services for this Pilgrimage.

11th of Oct 2019 was the first day of this marvelous event. The procession was started from Ibn-e-Mariam street No.2 and passed through the various areas of Parish and entered in the Holy Rosary Parish in the evening. Before the Holy Mass, the girls of St. Catherine Girls High School led the Rosary in dramatic way. After that Fr. Patrick Peter OP who was invited for the coronation of the Mother Mary did this sacred activity. During the coronation, the students of St. Dominic High School presented a beautiful tableau in a very charming manner.

The Parish Priest of Holy Rosary Parish, Rev.Fr Pascal Paulus OP invited Prior Vice Provincial very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP to preside over the Holy Mass on the first day of pilgrimage. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP gave very informative and magnificent homily in which he pointed out the volunteer yes of Mother Mary infront of God's Will. We should also follow her example. After Holy Mass Fr Pascal Paulus OP, Fr Shakeel Michael OP and Fr Patrick Peter OP commenced charismatic prayer in which many people got consolation and healing from their sufferings.
On the second day of pilgrimage, the morning Mass was offered by Fr. Patrick Peter OP. He explained that how mother Mary listened to the message of Angel Gabriel, meditated upon it and through the life giving dialogue accepted the plan of salvation. In his sermon, he said that Mother Mary is a great and splendid model for us in this modern era so that we ought to be faithful like Her. After that, there was a quiz, speech, and tableau competition program which was organized by Fr Pascal Paulus OP. All the schools of the parish took part actively in this program. Students showed their talents through different ways like speeches, acting and gave the answers to difficult questions of the Bible. At the end of the program, students were appreciated by giving the prizes.

In the evening of the second day, the Parish Priest of Holy Rosary (Fr. Pascal Paulus OP) requested the newly ordained Priest Rev. Fr. Zeeshan Francis OP to preside over the Holy Mass in Holy Rosary Parish. The members of AIM Center recited the Holy Rosary. Fr. Zeeshan Francis OP gave wonderful homily regarding Mother Mary. In his homily he said that mother Mary is a new Eve through whom Jesus came to be our redeemer and savior. At the end of Holy Mass, the people of parish showed their devotion by presenting him gifts and garlands.

The third day of the pilgrimage was very fascinating and captivating because on that day Fr Pascal Paulus OP (Parish Priest) invited a newly Ordained bishop, his Excellency Bishop Indrias Rehmat (Bishop of Faisalabad Diocese) to preside over the Holy Mass. In the morning of third Day, there was a music competition in which many musicians participated enthusiastically.

In the evening before Holy Mass Bishop was welcomed by the band of St. Dominic School in a very charming manner. When he entered in the parish, the band of St. Dominic School welcomed him. After that, the Mass started. He gave an inspirational homily on Mother Mary. Comparing Holy Family with the modern families, he told that they should live the spirit of Holy Family. People showed their love and respect to Bishop by garlanding him. The Program ended with the words of gratitude by the parish priest.
One day Seminar on Extraordinary Month of Mission
at Sacred Heart Parish Sahiwal

Sr. Zuneera Anwar OP

It is 100th year since Pope Benedict XV’s encyclical Maximum Illud called on Catholics to bring the Good News to all peoples (Missio Ad Gentes). To commemorate its anniversary, Pope Francis declared October 2019 to be an Extraordinary Month of Mission. This special month of prayer and action calls us all to renew our missionary commitment. On 25th October 2019 a seminar was organized in Sacred Heart Parish Sahiwal which took place in the well equipped hall of Sacred Heart girl's high School. This seminar intended to reawaken, revitalize and renew our ongoing commitment to Missio Ad Gentes. 60 participants including hostel girls and boys participated in the seminar. Miss Sumera Sohail and Miss Christina Shahzad from Sacred Heart girls High school skillfully hosted the program. At the beginning of the seminar prayer was offered for the intention of Holy Father and the universal mission of the church. Rev. Fr. Zahid Augustine OP (Parish priest of Sacred Heart Parish) received Rev. Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP, Rev. Fr. Irfan Jerome OP and Sr. Josephine Michael OP and garlanded them, and welcomed the entire participants.

Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP in his introduction said that we are baptized and sent to proclaim the Good News and to be the light of the nations and be witnesses to the ends of the earth. Fr. Irfan Jerome OP said, the celebration of the extraordinary Month is a magnificent opportunity for fostering an awareness of the mission to the world and taking up again with renewed fervor the missionary transformation of the church's life and pastoral activities.

Sr. Josephine Michael OP the speaker of the day, emphasized that the church needs men and women who, by virtue of their baptism, respond generously to the call of leaving behind home, family, country, language and local church, to be sent forth to the nations… by proclaiming God's Word, bearing witness to the Gospel and celebrating the life in Spirit. She said we are called to convert, baptize and offer Christian salvation, with respect for the freedom of each person and dialogue with the cultures and religions of the peoples to whom we are sent. Aspirants of Missionary of the Schools and the hostel girls gave a beautiful dance performance on the English song (Go and make disciple). They also staged a small play about the different vocations of the various congregation and Orders in the church. Different models in the biblical perspective of mission were displayed in the hall. This gave a clear sight to the participants to understand each one of their vocation and offered themselves generously for the universal mission of Christ.

At the end of the seminar Fr. Zahid Augustine OP expressed the words of gratitude to all and especially to Sr. Josephine Michael OP preacher of the day. All the participants were invited to join the fraternal meal. The feedback of the participants confirmed that the seminar was very much appreciated.
Annual retreat for all the Dominican friars was held from 4th to 9th of November 2019 at Ibn-e-Mariam House Pak- Arab Lahore. Dominican friars from all over the country participated in this annual spiritual exercise. Whereas seven friars were not able to participate because three of them were out of country for the study purpose and rest of four didn’t came due to health reason. By the grace of God this year we were privileged to have Rev. fr. Patrick Samuel OFM (Cap) as our retreat preacher who has vast experience as retreat preacher and spiritual director. Throughout the retreat, every day friars actively participated in all the spiritual exercises such as Eucharistic Celebration, Sessions, Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament and on the last day of retreat friars got an opportunity to have the sacrament of reconciliation. In the last day of the Annual Retreat, Rev.fr. Younas Shahzad OP thanked the retreat preacher and all the friars for their cooperation, presence and for the punctuality in spiritual exercises.
Highlights of Christmas Celebrations 2019
May you continue to be sustained by his grace and may your life in God’s service always be filled with joy.

Rev. Fr. Marcus Daniel CP on your 25th Anniversary as Priest.

Respected Sr. Lilian Raphael CP for being elected as Provincial Provincial of St. Joseph Province of Pakistan and Best of Luck for New Office.

Many congratulations to Sr. Nusrat Fatima Lewis CP on her election as regional superior for Dominican Sparkle Sister of Pakistan.

We Dominican Family Heartily Congratulate & Appreciate the services of Radio Veritas in proclaiming the Word of God in Pakistan.
We the Sons of Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province Pakistan wish you all Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
There is an African saying, “Alone I can go fast but together we can go far.”

On the 9th of November Launching Ceremony of the Ibn-e-Mariam Website was held at Pak-Arab Lahore. Very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP addressing the friars on that historical day said that the website of the Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province has not been in function and other people around the glob could not be in touch with us through media. This is the era of mass media, so we decided to restart our website. Acts of the our 10th Vice Provincial Chapter 2019 in its chapter entitled challenges to the mission No. 22 states that ‘friars should make proper use of Mass Media for preaching and evangelization’. To achieve this goal chapter appointed Fr. James Samuel OP as chairperson, Fr. Shakeel Michael and Fr. Atif Anthony as assistants.

I feel this is time to pay tribute to all team members who helped for this great achievement. Your co-operation was the source of motivation for me to move forward to complete this assignment. This project was started with a meeting of media commission which was held on the 13th of May 2019, in which different suggestions were presented by the media team and an outline of the project of the website was made. Different assignments of data gathering were given to Fr. James Samuel OP, Fr. Shakeel Michael OP, Fr Atif Anthony OP, Fr. Azhar Lal OP, Fr. Alvin Mehraj OP and Bro. Perkash Dominic OP. The name of the domain was finalized as follows:

www.pakistandominicans.org

He expressed his joy-filled gratitude to all the friars of the media commission for their co-operation. He also acknowledged the assistance of Fr. James Channan OP and Fr. J. J Edward OMI who helped in proofreading the text and Mr. Akash Gill (web designer) and Bro Perkash Dominic OP for providing assistance in developing this website. In the end, he urged all the friars to write their reports of activities and articles for the website so that we may share our life activities with others.
Blessing of New Church and Catechist House  

at Shahdara Parish

On 1st November three blessed and joyful events were celebrated in Baddo (sub-center) of St. Luke's Parish Shahdara Lahore, First, the blessing of newly built St. Dominic Church Khaki. Second the blessing of Catechist house in Baddo and third the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. By the grace of God, all three events accomplished smoothly by the hands of His Grace Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shaw (Archbishop of the Diocese of Lahore).

Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shaw was warmly welcomed by the people of Khaki at 3:00. Bishop Shaw blessed the Inauguration Plate, prayed for the congregation and delivered a short and sweet message to the people by saying that, this house of the Lord is the house of prayer. Whenever you come to the church, pray with firm faith and full confidence. Then he blessed the Holy Bible and lectionary which will be used in the church. He also blessed all the members of St. Catherine Rosary group Khaki.

After the blessing of St. Dominic Church Khaki, Bishop moved Baddo. People gave him grand welcome. In Baddo first, he blessed the inauguration plate and then he blessed the newly built Catechist house with holy water and prayed for the house and for the family of Babu Ashrif.

After that there was Holy Mass and celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Along with Archbishop, Fr. Imtiaz Nishan, Fr. Atif OP, Fr. Nasir OP and Fr. Almas Silas OP were also present. In his thought-provoking homily, he addressed to the children that today you receive the Holy Spirit which strengthens your faith to do right and live your life according to the will of God. Today with the grace of the Holy Spirit you will be the source of inspiration for others. He stressed on the importance of dialogue which is very important to enhance the quality of family life, for this Holy Family is a great example for us all. He asked the people to build their families on the model of Holy Family. There were 100 children who received Sacrament of confirmation. Fr. Atif OP (Parish Priest) thanked His grace Archbishop, Fr. Samson Dilawar, Babu Illyas and the catechist commission for this great gift of new catechist house in Baddo. After the Holy Mass, people showed their love to the bishop by giving him gifts. In the end, dinner was served to all the people who came to participate in this blissful event.
"You did not choose me but I choose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last" (Jn. 15:16)

The 5th Ordination Anniversary of Rev. fr. Zahid Augustine OP was celebrated with great religious sentiment. He was ordained with fr. Taufiq Dominic OP on 15th of November 2014 at Holy Rosary Parish Warispura-Faisalabad by His grace Bishop Dr. Joseph Arshad.

On 15th November 2019, he completed five years of his priesthood. To celebrate this great occasion, a special invitation was given to Rev. Fr. Marcus Daniel OP who was celebrating his 25th Ordination Anniversary, Fr. Pascal Paulus OP and Fr. Irfan Jerome OP were also present at this blessed event. The celebration was started with a tremendous welcome by the people. Fr. Zahid Augustine OP offered thanksgiving mass whereas Fr. Irfan Jerome OP preached the Word of God and highlighted the blessings and responsibilities of the priesthood. Fr. Marcus Daniel OP shared his 25 years experience of priestly life. Fr. Pascal Paulus OP on behalf of Very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP (Prior Vice Provincial) congratulated Fr. Marcus Daniel, Fr. Taufiq Dominic OP and Fr. Zahid Augustine OP. He said that priests touch Jesus in the Eucharist and becomes Eucharist for the people. Many People showed their love by garlanding, wishing and by giving gifts.

At the end of the program, Fr. Zahid Augustine OP, while sharing his views said that priesthood is a precious gift of God and I am grateful to God that He has called me to serve in His vineyard as a priest. Further he thanked his parents, brothers, sisters, relatives, benefactors, friends, formators, teachers, Dominican family, catechists, and parishioners for their wonderful cooperation and arrangements for the celebration. He requested all the faithful to continue their prayers for his successful journey as a Dominican Priest.
One Day Seminar on Advent Season 2019
in Sacred Heart Parish Sahiwal

Mrs. Mehreen Yousaf

Advent Season is a blessed Season for the preparation of the coming of Jesus Christ. This Season demands the preparation of our hearts to receive baby Jesus. Keeping this in mind, One-day Seminar on Advent Season was held on 30th November in Sacred Heart Parish Sahiwal under the guidance of Rev. fr. Zahid Augustine OP (Parish Priest). Many people took keen interest in sharing and participation. Preachers of this seminar were Sr. Josephine Michael OP and Fr. Zahid Augustine OP. In her message, Sr. Josephine Michael OP shared that Advent is a time to clean our hearts from hatred and sins. We need to be pure and alert for the coming of Christ. Whereas Fr. Zahid Augustine OP talked about the liturgical aspects of the Advent Season, he said that four weeks of Advent covers the first and second coming of Christ. Advent and Christmas signs and symbols are full of meaning. He added that the message of Christmas is love, hope, peace, joy, sharing and coming together. So let us be united. Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP (House Superior) introduced the Dominican Month for Peace starting from 1st December 2019 to 1st January 2020. He said that with the International Dominican family we will pray for Peace in the Country and in the World. Peace candle was lit by the fathers, sisters, and heads of the Parish Groups.

Last but not the least, At the end of the program Fr. Zahid Augustine OP wholeheartedly thanked all the parishioners for their participation and availability.
Solemnity of Christ the King was celebrated on 24th of November 2019 at Holy Rosary Parish Warispura Faisalabad. It is the faith of the Universal Church that Christ is the king of all ages and all glory and honor belongs to him, as it is written in the book of Rev. 5:12; “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing”

Different schools, institutes, organizations and parish groups organized programs and processions to make this day remarkable. On 24th November, the Procession of Christ the King began from the local parish church at 9:00 am in the morning. It was a huge gathering, people from all over the Parish participated to pay homage to their King (Jesus Christ). The arrangements were well organized and disciplined. Priests, Sisters, Novices, Postulants, Dominican Laity, different Church Groups, and Schools were present. The band of St Catherine School was in front of the crowd followed by priests, novices and laity. Fr Pascal Paulus (Parish Priest) was holding the monstrance and people were showing their devotion and veneration towards the Holy Eucharist. People showed respect by garlanding the priests and by throwing the rose petals on the crowd from the roofs of their houses.

The Procession passed through different streets of Barkatpura and from street#4 of Warispura. People presented the live gospel characters and narrated different events of the Holy Bible mainly, The Sin of Adam and Eve, the Noah and the Ark, Nativity, Annunciation and the Resurrection of Christ. These Events showed that Jesus is the Eternal King. People raised slogans which showed deep devotion for their Savior. Fr. Pascal Paulus OP presided over the Holy Mass. In his homily, he explained that Christ is the eternal king and His kingdom is meant for all. He further said with great emphasis that God wants all of us to be saved through the good shepherd and self-sacrificing king. At the end of the Holy Mass Fr. Pascal thanked and appreciated the efforts of all the groups, sisters and individuals.
Dominican Month for Peace
1st December 2019 to 1st January 2020

Rev. Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP & Rev. Fr. Iftikhar Moon OP

Former Master General of the Dominican Order Fr. Bruno Cadore in his tenure started the Dominican month for peace during advent season. This year Very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP (Prior Vice Provincial Ibn-e-Mariam Province Pakistan) encouraged the entire Dominican family to celebrate this month proficiently. Promoter for Justice and Peace (Rev. Frs. Iftikhar Moon OP and Nadeem Joseph OP) prepared a plan for the month of December 2019 and sent to Very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad, OP. This plan was sent to the entire Vice Province to observe Dominican month for Peace. Subsequent activities were planned.

A) Orientation Program on 30th November 2019 regarding peace.
On 30th Nov. 2019 a reading from the Holy Bible on Jesus’ beatitudes was recited, peace candle was lit and peace song was sung by participants. Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP spoke and presented monthly plan for the Dominican month of peace and encouraged the faithful to become the channel of peace wherever we are working.

B) On 7th December 2019, Holy Hour for peace building and Reconciliation service for suffering and persecuted people was organized.

C) On 10 December 2019, Training session on awareness of Human rights and duties of citizens, and seminar for youth about social violence against children, women and poor people was conducted and special peace prayer of St. Francis was recited and sung “O Lord make me a channel of peace” and peace candle was lit. About 250 people participated in the program. Human rights side show was presented for awareness of the people by active youth group of the parish. Special tableau was performed by the Dominican sisters aspirants under the guidance of Sr. Zunara OP. Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP gave power point training session on human rights and duties. Mr. Asknaz youth coordinator and Mr. Zafar presented their talks concerning social violence, abuses in our society against children, women and poor people of our society. At the end of the program Mr. shaukat Masih chief guest of the program appreciated the efforts of speakers, and interest of the participants.

D) On 15th December 2019 special Holy Mass on Sunday was offered. People were invited to make financial contribution that will be used for poor people and deserving students. Sunday Mass collection was taken and Rs. 5678 were collected for poor families and children. This amount was given to deserving families before Christmas.

E) On 1st January 2020 closing ceremony of the month for peace was held on International World Day of Peace.

We are thankful to our Master General Most Rev. Fr. Gerard Timoner OP, Rev. Fr. Mike Deep OP (Permanent delegate to the UN, Dominicans for Justice and Peace) and very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP who facilitated and encouraged the entire Dominican Family to observe this month.
St. Luke's Parish Shahdara inaugurated the Dominican Month for Peace on the 1st of December 2019 with Eucharistic Celebration. Significant participants of this holy gathering were Very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP (Prior Vice Provincial), Rev. Fr. Patrick Peter OP, Rev. Fr. Imtiaz Nishan and 19 Dominican Student-Brothers. Holy Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP and Rev Fr. Atif Anthony OP. the parish priest of St. Luke's Parish was the homilist.

During the homily, he highlighted the different challenges spoiling the peace of the world. We see many crisis going on due to violence, lack of tolerance, killing, religious discrimination, wars between different countries and terrorism are threats to the peace of the world. So being Christian specially as Dominicans we have to promote the message of hope and peace to the whole world. For this purpose, we need to develop a culture of positivity, forgiveness, and understanding. During the Eucharistic Celebration, special prayers were offered for the victims of war in Kashmir and protection of child abuse in India. At the end of the program, balloons attached to the poster of peace were flown in the air by Very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP priests, sisters and laity. All the guests went to share the meal and to celebrate the birthday celebration of Rev. Fr. Atif Anthony.
The month of December is the month to commemorate the great event which took place centuries ago, in which the savior was born to the world. He is also known as “The King of Kings” and “The Prince of Peace”. On 1st of December, the 1st Sunday of Advent season it was declared that the Month of December will be the Dominican Month for Peace. This declaration was made due to violence in the world and specially in India.

Our newly elected, Master of the Order Most Rev. Fr. Gerard Timoner III circulated a letter to all the Dominicans to observe “Dominican Month for Peace 2019”. The purpose of this letter was to encourage brothers to observe the month for peace for the promotion of peace and harmony in all over the world specially in India.

Very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP Vice Provincial of the Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province Pakistan after receiving this letter distributed it to all the Dominican friars and advised them that during the month of December they must arranged some programs in there parishes. Rev. Fr. Pascal Paulus OP parish priest organized several programs in Holy Rosary Parish. On the first Sunday of Advent, the Holy Rosary parish inaugurated the Month of Peace in the Holy Mass. The main focus of the month of peace was to pray for the Christians of India and those who are persecuted because of their faith.
Dominican Month for Peace 2019 was celebrated at Louis Hall Dominican House of Formation, Multan, Pakistan with full zeal and zest. It was started on December 01, 2019 (1st Sunday of Advent) and ended on January 01, 2020 (World Day of Peace). On the opening of this month, a Holy Mass was celebrated in the Chapel of Louis Hall Dominican House of Formation. Fr. Irfan Jerome O.P (Director) presided over the Holy Mass and Fr. Haroon Ilyas OP (Assistant Director) was concelebrant.

Fr. Irfan Jerome OP in his homily said that as Dominicans we are ambassadors of Justice and Peace. We preach Jesus Christ who is Prince of Peace. Our words and actions should make this World a place of peace because “blessed are the peacemakers” (Mt.5:09). To establish peace, we have to teach and preach peace. Let’s remember our Dominican brothers and sisters who are working hard to bring peace and harmony in the World.

The Director, assistant director, and students sang peace hymns and prayed for peace in the World. The Dominican mission of our brothers and sisters in India was focused and stress was laid on the education and protection of the collaborators to deal with victims of sexual abuse. The director asked students to pray continuously for peace in the world. Both directors and students lit the candles and offered intercessions for the mission of the Dominican brothers and sisters. Whole month special prayers were said for peace in the world. May Peace prevail on Earth.
“Charity and love are the same – with charity you give love, so do not just give money but reach out your hand instead.” (Mother Theresa)

Christmas is a season of love, joy, caring and sharing our love for those who are needy, voiceless and homeless. It is a Season of sharing the joys with the people who are deprived so that all may rejoice on the birthday of the Prince of Peace.

While following the tradition of the Holy Rosary Parish, the Charity campaign was launched in the Parish from December 10, 2019, till December 21, 2019. The Parish Priest and Pastoral team visited the Catholic families to raise the funds for the poor families of the Parish. The people generously participated and appreciated the efforts of the Parish Team. The team visited the families and prayed for the families and thanked them for their generous contribution.

On this historical and grace-filled event on 21st December, Rev. Fr. Pascal Paulus OP invited his Excellency Dr. Indrias Rehmat Bishop of Faisalabad to distribute charity to 450 peoples. Bishop Indrias Rehmat shared his stunning thoughts with people and appreciated the work of Parish Priest and Pastoral Team. He acknowledged that all the pastoral team worked with conviction.

The people were excited and over joyed especially those who received this token of love and those who contributed with cheerful hearts. In the end, Fr Pascal Paulus offered words of gratitude. He thanked God and His Excellency Bishop Indrias Rehmat for his Presence and appreciation. He also thanked all the friars, Novices, catechists and pastoral team for their untiring services and efforts.
Bonfire Night and Christkindl Celebration 2019
at Louis Hall Dominican House of Formation, Multan

Adeeb Sarzeel Aspirant

Bonfire Night and Christkindl program was celebrated at Louis Hall, Dominican House of Formation Multan on December 15, 2019. Fr. Irfan Jerome OP (Director), Fr. Haroon Illyas OP (Assitant Director) and all the students were present for this annual celebration.

Program started at 8:30 pm. Firewoods for Bonfire Night were arranged by the social committee of the house. Fire was lit in the middle of the Lawn. We sat around it and enjoyed the warmth of fire in the cold weather. Aalishan and Basharat were the commentators for this program who led the program efficiently. They explained the purpose and significance of the program and said that it is a time of celebration, happiness, joy, love and sharing our gifts to each other.

All the students especially the 1st year were very excited as it was their first Christkindl celebration in the House of Formation. It was an unforgettable night for all of us because we exchanged prayers and gifts with each other. During the program we enjoyed the Nuts, Candies and high Tea. This night really created a wonderful fraternal atmosphere. Fr. Haroon Illyas OP was fascinated because it was his first bonfire night at Louis Hall, Dominican House of Formation Multan. At the end of the program Fr. Irfan Jerome OP appreciated all the students for arranging such a wonderful program. He said that Jesus is the biggest gift of Christmas and he is for whole humankind.
Annual Christmas get-together

Mr. Ashik Naz

Active Youth Group Sacred Heart parish Sahiwal who is working for the uplifting of the youth under the guidance of parish priest organized Annual Christmas Get to Gather program on 15th of December 2019 in Louis Hall ground, Sahiwal. Rev. Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP and Sr. Josephine Michael OP and Sr. Sumera Inayat OP were the distinguished guests. Babu Asif said an opening prayer and Miss Saira Indrias recited from the Holy Scripture.

Rev. Fr. Zahid Augustine OP in his Christmas message said Christmas is a special occasion in the lives of Christians. Christmas teaches us to love as God loves us. Furthermore he said that sharing is the particular aspect of Christmas so we have to think about our deserving brothers and sisters.

Sr. Josephine Michael OP said that Christ called us all to serve humanity. So being Christians, we should show with our practical life that we are true followers of Christ and lover of our fellow beings. Fr. Nadeem Joseph OP shared the importance of peace and he said that every one of us has the duty to promote the love and harmony in our world.

Recognizing the services of Babu Robin Yousaf and Mr. George Gill in the parish as a token of acknowledgment and appreciation shields were presented to them. Mr. Ashiknaz Khokhar shared the report of 2019, and the activities of coming year 2020.

Christmas cake cutting ceremony was the most charming point for all. At the end of the program, food was served to everyone. There were more than 100 people (male/female) who participated in the program. At the end of the program Rev. Fr. Zahid Augustine OP (Parish Priest), thanked all the participants and acknowledged the services of Active Youth Group.
The Christmas annual celebration was arranged by the Dominican Laity Chapter Karachi on 16th of December 2019, to share the joy of Christmas. In the first part of the program, the Holy Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Akhtar Naveed OP. In his homily he said that, Christmas feast makes us understand to love God and humanity. He further, said that we need to plan for the coming Year 2020. It is a high time to look for new avenues and possibilities to meet our targets.

The people of all ages participated in the program. The children presented skits and dramas. Christmas carols were sung and the lottery was drawn. It was fascinating and worth seeing moments. At this auspicious occasion the views were shared by Fr. Thomas Bhatti OP, Fr. Zeeshan Francisco OP, Fr. Akhtar Naveed OP and Mr. Faris. Rev.Fr. Akhtar Naveed OP and Mr. Anwar Daniel thanked everybody. The gifts were given and festive dinner was served.
Annual Christmas get-together Programme at Louis Hall, Dominican House of Formation, Multan was held on 18th December 2019. There were about 80 guests who participated enthusiastically in the annual Christmas get-together. Rev.fr. Yaqub Farooq OP was the chief guest. There were also some noteworthy guests such as: Dominican Friars, Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of the Rosary, Razabad, Union of St. Catherine of Siena, Missionaries of the Schools, La Salle Brothers, Daughters of Saint Paul, Good Shepherd Sisters and Families of the Domestic Staff.

The program was prepared by students in English and started at 6:30 pm. Adeeb Sherazi and Sanwal Ram were commentators. In the program following items were presented: Welcome Tableau, A Speech on Christmas, Nativity Play, Carol Singing, Masihi Christmas Bolliya and Santa Claus Dance.

Santa Claus gave gifts of chocolate, candies, and biscuits to the children. Rev.Fr. Yaqub Farooq OP, (chief guest) in his views appreciated both directors and students for organizing a wonderful Christmas Programme. He said that Christmas is the time of sharing and receiving gifts. The biggest gift of Christmas is our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us celebrate Christmas by sharing our things, life, love, empathy, forgiveness, and peace with our fellow human beings.

In the end, Words of Gratitude were expressed by Rev.fr. Irfan Jerome OP (Director). After the Christmas program, a delicious and appetizing dinner was served to all the guests. The students of Louis Hall, Dominican House of Formation Multan showed their talent, artwork, and creativity by decorating the St. Dominic Chapel, St. Thomas Aquinas Hall and different parts of the house. They made Christmas symbols of Crib, Christmas tree, Christmas star, Angels and Santa Claus.
Christmas Celebration at New Garden Town Lahore

Christmas is a time of rejoicing. On 19th December 2019 at Dominican House, New Garden Town Christmas program was arranged under the kind guidance of Very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP. All the Dominican family including friars, sisters, youth and laity of St. Thomas Chapter gathered together to share their joys.

Program started at 5:00 pm. Bro. Perkash Dominic O.P and Miss. Saba Salvatar were the hosts. Different Congregations of Sisters prepared games, carols, skits, tableaus and Christmas songs. Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP shared with the participants significance of Christmas. He expressed his views by saying that this year I am happy to see you all here in this mother house. This brings unity among us and this bond of unity is for the special mission which is to witness Christ through our apostolates. He also requested the Dominican family to reactivate the Dominican laity group and arrange different program regarding their faith formation.

Dominican student brothers presented nativity story. During the program participants enjoyed soup. Different gifts were given to those who won the lottery which captivated the audience. Rev. Fr. Almas Silas OP (house superior) got the opportunity to address the vote of thanks. Program ended by cutting Christmas cake. After the Christmas programs festive meal was served to all.
Christmas is the high and Holy time of the year. We are the people of Christmas, the people who celebrate Christmas' joys and share these joys with others. This is the occasion of exchanging joys and gifts with each other in different ways and forms. Christmas provides us an opportunity to reflect on the birth of Christ.

A beautiful program was arranged by the school staff and celebrated under the supervision of Rev. Fr. Yasir Paul OP, in St. Dominic Convent Higher Secondary School Bahawalpur on 19th December 2019. Miss Robina Sohail was MC of the program.

The program was started with opening prayer said by Bro. Bashir Francis OP and a reading from the Holy Bible was recited by a staff member. All the Christian and Muslim teachers expressed their joys by presenting different items and segments and by singing songs. Fr. Rehmat Raja OP shared a beautiful Christmas message. He said that every year we celebrate Christmas and every year it enhances our joys. It creates in us newness and enthusiasm. Celebrating Christmas with Muslim staff is a practical form of dialogue.

Fr. Yasir Paul OP expressed the heartiest wishes of Christmas to all the teachers, friars and domestic staff. Celebrating to gather is an expression of our utmost unity and sense of togetherness. Christmas celebration is a yearly celebration that brings us together to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ the Emmanuel, 'God with us'. This festival is a universal event that is for all.

On this occasion, we pray that our school may always make progress and be the source of development of all the staff and students and may all our educational effort step towards the progress of our country. In the end, he thanked all the staff members and Dominican community for their availability and participation in the celebration. In the end, Christmas cake was cut by the Friars along with the Principal and the staff and festive lunch was served.
In St. Dominic Boys Hostel Christmas program was organized on 22nd of December 2019. Chief guests were Vice Provincial Rev. Fr Younas Shahzad OP, Rev. Fr. James Channan OP, Rev. Fr. Akhtar Naveed OP, Rev. Fr Yasir Paul OP, and Rev. Fr. Maris Javed OP.

A warm welcome was given to honorable guests. Hostel student Zubair Suneel introduced the guests & said the words of welcome. Nazim Naik read the Holy Bible and Miss Zeenat said opening prayer. Deacon Bashir Francis OP (hostel incharge) officially welcomed all the guests and thanked for their presence.

Fayaz Khalid presented a short annual report of hostel. Hostel's little children performed a dance on different carols and a tableau on the birth of Jesus Christ then, honorable guests shared their views regarding Christmas program and hostel apostolate. At the end all the guests enjoyed festive lunch!
Christmas Celebration
with Hindu Tribal People at Yazman Mandi, Bahawalpur

Miss Elishba Marcus

Every year we share our Christmas joy with Hindu tribal school’s children. This year Very Rev. Fr. Younas Shahzad OP, Rev Fr. James Channan OP, Rev. Father Irfan Jerome OP, Rev. Fr. Maris Javed OP, Rev. Fr. Akhtar Naveed OP came with great zeal to see our mission work which we are doing among the Hindu tribal people. 21st of December was the enormous day for the Hindu tribal people. Deacon Bashir Francis OP with respected guests reached on time at Chak 17 DMB.

Hindu tribal people with school children welcomed all the guests and played Christmas drama directed by Miss Elishba, Master Danny Raam, Master Kishna Raam and Babu Yousaf. They had Bhaggtii. After that All the guests shared their love with Hindu tribal people by distributing Christmas gifts. Delicious lunch was served by the tribal people to the guests.
Ibn-e-Mariam
Vice Province Pakistan