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A call to be God's servant is a gift for the humanity. In different era, God called different people to serve in his vineyard. We thank God for the gift of our new Master of the Order, Most Rev Fr Gerard Francisco Timoner III OP who is called for the leadership of the Order of Preachers. On behalf of the Prior Vice Provincial Very Rev Fr Younas Shahzad OP and all the sons of Ibn-e-Mariam Vice-Province of Pakistan, I congratulate Rev Fr Gerard for his new office and assure him of our prayers and best wishes.

It is a time to praise God for new vocations which he has been sending to Ibn-e-Mariam Vice-Province Pakistan. With great joy I would like to share that three of our brothers (Bro Irj Bernard OP, Bro Akash Dominic OP, and Bro Nabeel Joseph OP) completed their philosophical Studies whereas Bro Perkash Dominic OP completed his theological studies. Further, in the month of August five novices made their simple profession and three student brothers namely Perkash Dominic OP, Irj Bernard OP and Akash Dominic OP made their perpetual vows. We are blessed with nine novices too who started their novitiate in August.

During summer vacation student brothers had two weeks summer study program on the sacramental theology of St. Thomas Aquinas at Ibn-e-Mariam House Lahore. On 8th of August the feast of St. Dominic was celebrated with great joy which refreshed the charism of the Order in the lives of our friars. The saintly life of St. Dominic is the model for each one of us. We cannot witness Christ authentically by our words only rather we need to preach Christ practically like St. Dominic in every sphere of life. God does not always demand from us the successful preaching but our perpetual faithfulness.

Solidarity to the government and our country was expressed on 14th August by organizing different programs on Pakistan Independence Day. Faithfulness to our beloved country demands honesty, discipline, and unity. A peaceful environment is not only a human need but is also good for the mother earth. Let us move together to generate the peace of Christ for which he came into the world.
Report on General Chapter 2019
Bien Hua Vietnam

It was a wonderful experience to attend the General Chapter of Bien Hua 2019 in Vietnam held from July 4 to August 7, 2019. On our arrival at Bien Hua we were warmly welcomed by the general secretary and student brothers on reception. A file was given and room was allotted to each friar. Fr Joseph was the secretary who was very active throughout the General Chapter. It was announced that all the friars must ask the General Secretary if they need anything so that a system may be followed for better service.

On 7th evening the credentials (Confirm letter of the Master) of all the provincials and Vice provincials were examined by the committee. On 8th Morning a Welcome talk was given by Bro. Bruno, the Master of the Order. All the friars were introduced to the Atrium which is a website of the Order where all the documents related to the Chapter were available. Nothing was given in printed form. Different Commissions were formed and rules of procedure were set. There was a short introduction of all capitulars and guests.

On 9th July Bro Bruno presented the Relatio of the Order. Then capitulars were divided into three linguistic groups (English, Spanish and French) which are official languages of the Order and they gave analysis of Relatio and identified different themes. Then Report of the Syndic was presented. On 10th July work of the commissions started. Different linguistic groups had discussion on the candidates to be possible Master of the Order.

On the morning of 12th July there was presentation and interviews of each proposed candidate where only capitulars and translators were present. In the evening a retreat was given by Dr. Dong Ngac Dung on the topic of "Living the Christian faith and proclaiming the Gospel in
a non-Christian country: An Asian secular preacher on dialogue-culture-religion-poverty.

On 13th morning there was mass of the Holy Spirit and election of the Master of the Order. All the democratic procedures were strictly followed. Fr Gerard Francisco Timoner III OP was elected as new Master of the Order. The Order of Preachers welcomed the 87th successor of St. Dominic de Guzman, in the person of Fr Gerard Francisco Parco Timoner III, OP a son of the Dominican Province of the Philippines and first Asian Master of the Order.

During the chapter in his first official address as the Master of Order, most Rev Fr Gerard said, Master of the Order is the successor of St Dominic and the principle of unity of the Order, to whom all the friars and nuns of the Order make profession of obedience. It was the desire of St. Dominic that he should not be called "Abbot", but rather "Master": that is, "teacher" of his brothers. The Rule of St. Augustine reminds the Master and other superiors of the Order that he should consider himself happily serving the brothers in charity, rather than dominating with power.

I was very enriching experience to accompany Provincials, Vice Provincial, delegates and different participants from different parts of the World. It was a golden chance and unique working experience to be in commissions and to do the legislation work with the Capitulars. Daily liturgy was well prepared with beautiful liturgical hymns and all the capitulars were given opportunity turn by turn to preach or preside or be a con-celebrant. Liturgical books
were printed in three languages so that all may be able to participate in the Divine Office and singing. Nobody ever felt out of place. Before the sessions every morning there was a roll call. Legislation process was very hectic but very fruitful. It was a unique learning experience to work in a group and come up with certain conclusions with common consensus. Four topics were very much discussed in this General Chapter such as Cooperators Brothers, Collaboration, Sexual Abuse and unification of the fragile provinces.

There were 103 capitulars, some moderators and translators as well. Altogether we were round about 150 persons. Time table was strictly observed. Food was very good. On Sundays we were going to different places for excursions. A was time given to present certain reports or requests. I also requested to present the present situation of the Vice Province to the Capitulars. The pictorial presentation on Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province Pakistan was much appreciated.

We are thankful to God for the new leadership of the Order of Preachers Most Rev Fr Gerard Francisco Timoner III OP as 88th Master of the Order. He is first Asian successor of our Holy Father St. Dominic. He was already residing in Rome and was an assistant to the Master for Asia Pacific Region. During the general chapter I tried to build my healthy relationships with all the provincials so that they may stay connected to us.

In the end, I would like expressed my heartfelt wishes to our new Master of the Order Rev Fr Gerard Francisco Timoner III OP and assure my prayers and I also urges to all the friars of Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province of Pakistan to continually prayer for his leadership.
Message of Master of the Order on the Feast of St. Dominic

We gather to celebrate the solemnity of our Father St. Dominic, light of the Church and preacher of grace. We gather in thanksgiving to the Lord for the grace of the General Chapter here in Bien Hoa, Vietnam, and for the manifold graces we have received from Him.

In Bologna, the last General Chapter began with an encounter with the student brothers from all over the world who went on pilgrimage with Br Bruno, Master of the Order. Here in Bien Hoa, the General Chapter ends with the solemn profession of twenty-one brothers, brothers who have vowed to journey with us in following Christ-the-Preacher. They dared to say "Yes" to a future that is not in their hands because they firmly believe that the future is in God's loving and merciful hands. God is powerful and faithful because what he promises, he fulfills. And God's power shines through us when we keep our word, when we remain true to our vows. Let us pray for their faithful perseverance.
Why do we promote vocations to the Order? Why do we invite men and women to join us in the Dominican Family? Do we recruit them because it is our duty to assure that the Dominican charism lives on to the next generation? Perhaps it is because we need co-workers who will help us in preaching the Gospel, or, is it because in our time, there are billions of people who have not yet heard of the Gospel, more than at any point in history, either because people are indifferent to the Gospel, or there are too "few workers for a large harvest". I believe all these are good reasons for us to accept brothers and sisters into the Order. But I think another good reason, probably, the most important one, is we want to share with them the joy of preaching the Gospel, we want to share with them the treasure of the Dominican life. We know from experience that when we encounter something magnificent or breathtaking, the first thing that comes to our mind are the people we love: how we wish they are with us! When our brother-capitulars go home, I suppose their stories will be about the remarkable things they have seen, heard and tasted here in Vietnam! That is how I imagine the communion of saints — as they enjoy the beatific vision, the saints remember us, and perhaps they say: how we wish they are here! And from our side, we say: nos Iunge beatis!

Jesus tells us in today's Gospel that we are the salt of the earth and light of the world. It is the light of faith we received in baptism that gives us the power to give color and flavor to our world. Pope Francis reminds us in Lumen Fidei: "Faith is not a light which scatters all our darkness, but a lamp which guides our steps in the night and suffices for the journey (LF # 57). Even with a very firm and unwavering faith, darkness persists in our world. Yet we have nothing to fear, for faith is a reliable lamp that will light our path.

Here in Vietnam, the name "Dominic" is translated as Da Minh which means marvelous light! Dominic is lumen ecclesiae. As Christians, and specially as Dominicans, we are the light of the world. But as light, we are more like the moon rather than the sun. Jesus is the only real light of the world; we merely reflect his light. This is what the fathers of the Church call as lunar ministry, to reflect the light of Christ, as the moon reflects the light of the sun. And we know that the brightness of moonshine depends on the moon's position in relation to the sun. The brightness of the light we bear as Dominicans depends largely on our relation with Christ.
Some of us, shine like the full moon — when people look at us, they immediately feel the joy and peace that comes from radiating Christ. They say that one who is in love glows and sparkles. A Dominican who is in love with God and is at peace with oneself and others sparkles and glows in an eminent way! You can easily spot them even when they are in a dark corner of the room because they sparkle, they glow, even in the dark! Yet some of us are in a waning crescent moon-phase, barely shining, almost hidden from Christ. When you see a Dominican who is plunged in gloom, who is cranky and crabby, whose mere presence zaps out your energy, that brother or sister could be undergoing a lunar eclipse! They need our urgent fraternal care because the light that comes from Christ is totally blocked by something that comes between him and Christ. We are the light of the world, Jesus assures us. But what kind of light are we? Full moon, waning crescent or a lunar eclipse? To preach Christ by word and deed is a "lunar ministry".

Dominic is light of the Church, very much like the light Jesus speaks about in the Gospel. Dominic did not keep to himself the spark of divine inspiration, he founded an Order of Preachers, an order of men and women dedicated to the study of truth and the preaching of grace, and the building of communities, especially the Church.

One of the questions that intrigued me since I was a novice was how come the founder of the Order of Preachers has no recorded sermon or homily? It was not for lack of writing materials because we can still read today the beautiful homilies of St. Augustine who lived centuries earlier. Yet all we have are three short letters Dominic wrote: one was addressed to the nuns, two are about converts from heresy.

I think there must be a good reason for the absence of any recorded homily of Dominic. I invite you to use your imagination and suppose that such absence is meant to highlight the mystery that for Dominic, the Order he founded is his enduring sermon. He called the first convents not as a house for preachers but Holy Preaching itself. We are all the homily of St. Dominic in our world today. We are part of the ever-expanding text of his sermon. The word text comes from the Latin texere, which means to weave. The text of Dominic's sermon is a weaving together of
the life and witness of those who are captivated by his spirit, by his passion for the truth and compassion for humanity. And if we could imagine that we are part of Dominic's preaching, I invite you to consider where you are in the text[1] of St. Dominic's homily. Are you right in the middle of the text, in big bold letters? Are you a boring, insignificant footnote at the bottom of the page? Are you a footnote that nobody reads but they really should, because if they did, they would find out something interesting; that gives a whole new understanding of the text that sends you in new insightful directions? Are you a note on the margins, reflecting on, critiquing the text? Maybe you are at the margin, barely hanging onto the page, yet whose marginal existence marks the boundaries of the text and provides the world in which the text has its existence. And what does this text say? What do you, the text, have to say for yourself? We are the only but enduring preaching of Dominic in our world today. The decisions we took in our General Chapter, which are in themselves a weaving together of our collective dreams and determinations, are meant to make Dominic's preaching more eloquent in our world today. We have come from all parts of the world to celebrate our communion as Dominicans. We have walked together with the Lord for four weeks. After this gathering, we will journey back to our homes. Paradoxical as it may seem, even as we part ways and go to different directions, we continue to walk together, for we belong to the family of St. Dominic, *lumen ecclesiae*, and we have one goal: to radiate the light of Christ, the Word-Incarnate, to the world.
Life is a precious gift of God. Numerous talents and abilities are given to us to make life more beautiful and meaningful. One unique purpose is also attached to our talents and abilities for which God has called us. Heavenly Father also helps us to know the purpose of our lives and very initially through our parents, he guides us. Many people come in our life to fulfill the plan of God in our lives such as; our siblings, teachers, friends, and many others. St. Paul also said in his letter to the Ephesians, "Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes". (Ephesians 1:4.)

My name is Shahzaib Pervaiz and I am from Khuspur Village. My father is a chef by profession and he is has been serve the priests for last 24 years whereas my mother is a housewife. We are five brothers and sisters. My father served for eight-years at Sangla Hill Parish. I had my primary education from there. I was much attracted to the church activities. My parents were very happy and appreciated me. I was an altar server in the church. Gradually I grew in my faith. My parents were very generous to me by providing every facility for my better schooling. Fr Sylvester who was the parish priest at that time at Sangla Hill Parish was a very nice person and a good pastor. I was extremely impressed by his way of life.

One day during the homily he said, "the priest is a second Christ and unmarried searching for God." After listening to these words of Fr Sylvester an innocent desire of becoming priest took initiated in me and I decided to become a priest. I learned from school teachers many things, I continued my participation in the church activities regularly.
When I passed my matriculation, I expressed my desire to my parents to become a priest and they encouraged me to go ahead. In the beginning, I decided to join the diocesan seminary but when I went to take my letter of recommendation from my parish priest Fr Salem Anjam, I met with catechist Babu Sebastian who told me about the Dominican life. He persuaded me to join the Dominicans and I also felt an attraction towards his invitation. On the 6th of August 2015, I went to Warispura for an interview and there for the first time I saw a priest wearing Dominican habit and that priest looks like an angel. By the grace of God, I was selected.

On the 18th of August 2015. I joined Louis Hall Dominican House of Formation, Multan. In the formation house, I started a new journey of my life under the guidance of Rev Fr Naveed Joshua OP (Director) who always helped me to learn English in which I was very weak. My formator built in me much confidence so that I may speak and read in front of the others. He did not only form me intellectually but also polished my personality to be a good human. He also helped me to become a responsible, hardworking and good student. In the formation house of Multan, I experienced Dominican life more closely and I tried my best to adopt all the disciplines of the religious life.

My formator always encouraged my talents and appreciated me in learning new things. During my stay in the formation house I learned harmonium and flute. I read many informative books in Louis Hall. This was the fruit of the hard work of my formators that I completed my graduation with the flying colors and now I am in novitiate, I pray for my formators who always played an angelic role in my life. May God always use these holy people for His greater glory.
On 28th of June 2019, Sacred Heart Catholic Church Sahiwal celebrated the feast of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus with great devotion. This parish is named after the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus that's why people of the parish started their preparation three weeks before the celebration. Parish Priest Rev Fr Zahid Augustine OP had a meeting with different groups and pastoral team several times to make this day more significant for the parishioners. For the spiritual preparation of the faithful, novena prayer of Sacred Heart was arranged in the parish church. On the feast day Sisters of the Missionary of the Schools decorated the church magnificently. The Holy Mass was presided over by Rev Fr Zahid Augustine OP and the introduction of the Holy Mass was given by Fr Irfan Jerome OP whereas Fr Rocus Patras was the Homilist. During his homily Fr Rocus said, "The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus presents us an opportunity to reflect on the reverence of this venerable symbol in our daily lives. Jesus’s heart reaches out to us. It searches and longing for us as a shepherd for a lost sheep".

He also said while we pray to the Most Sacred Heard of Jesus we receive plentiful blessings from God. He explained the 12 promises of Jesus Christ related to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. On this special occasion Sr Najma Martha OP (Delegate Superior of Missionary of Schools) and Sr Martina Damiani (General Counselor from Italy) also graced the occasion with their presence. Many families brought their offerings as a family. At the end of the Eucharistic Celebration Rev Fr Zahid Augustine OP expressed the words of gratitude for all those who made this day spiritual and meaningful for the whole parish community. Afterwards, sweet was distributed among all the parishioners. Festive dinner was also prepared for clergy, sisters and catechists.
Pastoral Experience

at Sacred Heart Parish Sahiwal

Learning is a lifelong process. A person learns through many ways throughout his life. It is well said that “experience is the best teacher”. One learns more from experiences than any other teacher or books.

I am very thankful to Rev Fr Patrick Peter OP, Master of Students, who gave me an opportunity to learn through community and pastoral experience. He sent me to Sacred Heart Parish Sahiwal for a short pastoral exposure from 13-21 July, 2019. It was an enriching and wonderful experience.

Fr Zahid Augustine OP, Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Parish Sahiwal, gave me a chance to give reflection in the daily Holy Masses and Sunday Masses. During this time I visited many places both rural and urban and shared the Word of God with the people. I also went to the D.H.Q Hospital with Fr Irfan Jerome OP, to assist in administering the sacrament of anointing of the sick. I enjoyed with the community and followed the regular observances.

I also got an opportunity to meet the youth group of Sahiwal. There was a three days youth seminar organized by the Dominican Fathers and Dominican Sisters at parish level. The seminar was on different topics of the Holy Bible. It was very informative seminar. Frs Zahid, Irfan Jerome, Rocus Patras and myself were the speakers in this seminar. This seminar, enriched the participants in knowledge and understanding of the Holy Bible.

It helped me to built my confidence to discuss different issues with youth and listen to their problems. This was really beneficial for me. I learnt about the pastoral experience, that there is no holidays at all in the parish. By this pastoral exposure I have gained knowledge of myself and others which I will utilize in my life.
First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my formators, Fr Patrick Peter OP (Student Master) and Fr Nasir Emanuel OP (Assistant Student Master) who gave me this opportunity to have community experience at Holy Rosary Parish in Faisalabad. I had my community experience from 13th to 22nd of July. I had the privilege of staying with our senior friar Fr Pascal Paulus OP Parish Priest and Fr Alvin Mehraj OP who was assisting him in the parish. They welcomed me whole heartedly. I had a good time with them. The community over there was very loving and caring.

I had a comfortable and there because they provided me friendly atmosphere to grow in my spiritual journey as well as to learn pastoral values in the parish. I spent two liturgical Sundays there. I went on both Sundays turn by turn with Fr Pascal, Fr Alvin and Fr Shakeel Michael. I got an opportunity to visit different sub-stations of the parish. Fathers introduced me in different churches and also gave me an opportunity to preach the Word of God. I found them good at house visiting. I learnt from them that if we are close to the people, then we would bring the people closer to God. I also learnt how to prepare and perform various liturgical celebrations in the parish. I cam to know that the academic knowledge is quiet different then the parish realities. I observed that people living in the village have less knowledge of the sacraments.

During this community experience I got an opportunity to teach the novices. Fr Shakeel, the Novice Master invited me to give some taste of philosophy to the novices, because right after profession they are going to start their philosophical studies. I gave them some introductory classes with regard to basic understanding of philosophy.
Fr Pascal Paulus OP is very systematic and disciplined person. During the first meeting with catechists which was held on 15th of July he invited me to be the part of this meeting. He arranged my visits with different catechists in different Ilaqas. During these visits I found that parishners were very active and well catechized because the catechists of the parish are doing their responsibility honestly. I learnt from Fr Pascal Paulus OP how we should manage the parish office. He was very regular with keeping the parish records. I have learnt from him that parish records are important for parish administration.

I found Fr Pascal very supportive and encouraging to catechists. This attitude helped me to learn how I should be friendly and co-operative with my colleges.

During this time I met with church youth which was voluntarily helping the parish. The parish youth was very active. They were regular in the church and for different church activities. I also met St. Jerome Bible Group members. I got some information from this group with regard to their day to day activities in the parish. They really impressed me. They told me that Since 2015, (7pm to 10pm) St. Jerome Bible Study Group has been reading the Holy Bible during the lent with different Church Groups, NGOs, families, politicians, teachers, students, ministries, pastors, Focolare Movement, Dominican Sisters, Brothers and fathers. The group leader and members decorate the Holy Bible and bring it to the Altar before reciting the Holy Bible. The Group President is Abrar Younas who is a Lay Dominican.

They further told me that every day they read the life of one saint, to imitate him. Every Saturday they have recreation and parish priest comes to join them. I found their faith very strong. They are really devoted to the Holy Bible.

At the end, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Fr Patrick Peter OP for providing me this opportunity to learn the basic skills for pastoral life and the whole community of Holy Rosary Parish for their love and concern.
Youth Seminar on the Holy Bible
Sacred Heart Catholic Church Sahiwal

Youth is pillar of the Church. Our future lies in the hands of our youth but somehow they are less interested in the religious activities. By pondering upon all the situations and according to the need of the time, a beautiful and spiritual seminar for youth was organized by Sacred Heart, Catholic Church, Sahiwal with the collaboration of Dominican friars and Dominican Missionaries of the School Sisters, Sahiwal. The topic of the Seminar was, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Ps.119:105) This seminar was arranged for the youth of Sacred Heart Catholic Church to enlighten their understanding about the Holy Bible. It was 4 days seminar from 16 to 19 July, 2019.

Fr Zahid is giving talk on the Books of Old Testament
Youth of the Sacred Heart Parish

On 16th of July, 2019, Dominican Sisters welcomed all the participants in their convent. Almost 54 members participated in the seminar. It shows their keen interest and desire to learn about the Holy Bible. All the participants were given delicious food, spiritual environment, and peaceful stay during the whole seminar.
On the first day Fr Irfan Jerome OP, (Superior of Sahiwal community) was invited to give introductory session on the Holy Bible. He taught so beautifully that all the participants enjoyed his lecture.

The next day Fr Zahid Augustine OP, (Parish Priest Sacred Heart Parish Sahiwal) gave a session on the Old Testament, Epistles and The Book of Revelation. He efficiently explained what each holy book talks about, and also the main theme of each book of the Holy Bible. On 18th of July 2019, Fr Rocus Patras OP gave beautiful insights on the Acts of the Apostles. He highlighted the activities of the apostles. His main focus was St. Paul and he narrated his teachings marvellously.

On 19th July, 2019 Fr Irfan Jerome OP and Bro Irj Bernard OP gave last session on the Gospels. They taught the background, meaning and theme of the four Gospels. During these sessions some spiritual exercises were done with the youth. The youth presented biblical plays and skits wonderfully. In the end, the youth was greatly appreciated by the Parish Priest Rev Fr Zahid Augustine OP and Sr Josephine Michael OP. It was very enriching seminar and very beneficial for our youth. It nourished their faith and their knowledge of the Holy Bible. All the participants felt at home. They enjoyed and gained a lot through this spiritual seminar.
Six Month Pastoral Exposure
at Holy Rosary Parish Warispura, Faisalabad

For every pastor, his pastoral activities are like the golden memories of his achievements which gives him courage to move on, with hope and spiritual zeal. Pastor's main duties are to perform the sacraments, prepare the different liturgies and transmit the Church's teaching to the people. From the core of my heart, I express my gratitude to the National Catholic Institute of Theology and Dominican Community of Karachi House of Studies who appointed me for the pastoral experience on the 4th of February 2019. I had the privilege of working with Rev Fr Younas Shahzad OP the former Parish Priest of Holy Rosary Parish Warispura. I worked under his guidance for two months and in these months I learned so many things from him. I am also thankful to the present parish priest Rev Fr Pascal Paulus OP whose experience as a pastor is vast, preaching is thought-provoking and his love for the laity is remarkable. At every step of my pastoral exposure, I benefited from his wise advice. He not only advised me but also encouraged me in everything. I am also grateful to Fr Siddique M. Sundar OP in whose company I was able to improve my art.

As a Dominican it was the essential part of my life to take part in the Holy Eucharist daily, to serve at the altar, to set the missal for the priest, to prepare the multi-media presentation for Sunday service, to teach the catechism of the catholic church to the children, to prepare the Parish Magazine, to participate in the community prayers and to preach on Sundays. I also learned through my pastoral exposure how to organize different programs and how to work as a team to make them successful.
I got an opportunity to work with different groups, such as St. Jerome Bible Study Group, IDYM Youth Group, and Rosary Group. I gave some classes to the novices on Dominican Saints and with their help, I prepared the parish documentary. My parish priest also gave me a chance to give a workshop to teachers of the three parish schools. At two sub-stations of the parish namely Malkhawala and Khushhaal Town, I prepared the children for the First Holy Communion. I have learned from this pastoral exposure about the parish administration and parish office work. Through social media, I tried to publish many articles that were well appreciated by the congregation. How can I forget to acknowledge the cooperation of the entire pastoral team including the catechists who always encouraged and guided me on every step.
During this pastoral exposure, I practised many things that I learned from my theological studies. I went through many practical experiences which helped me to take the challenge of further studies because nowadays many self made pastors are spoiling the faith of innocent people by giving them wrong teaching. To deal with these challenges I have to equip myself with the knowledge of the Word of God. This pastoral exposure helped me to become aware of my vocation. During my pastoral life, I met with different challenges of life. The visit to sick in the hospitals and house visitation is the most essential part of the pastoral life which I must improve in my future. I have learned that obedience to the elders is the real source of respect in the communities and we have to fulfill our tasks with great devotion because there is a well known saying, "grow wherever you are planted."

I pray for all those people who helped me to grow in my vocation during this pastoral exposure. May the Heavenly Father always protect them from all evils and shower upon them His countless blessings. May God bless them all!
CONGRATULATIONS

To Most Rev Fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner III OP
New Master of the Order

on Behalf of Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province Pakistan
and from the Dominican family we congratulate
His Excellency Bishop Dr. Indrias Rehmat
on his Episcopal Consecration as Bishop of Faisalabad Diocese
CONGRATULATIONS

Dear

Bro Perkash Dominic OP

Congratulations
on Completing
your Theological Studies

CONGRATULATIONS

We Dominican Family heartly congratulate our Brothers
Frj Bernard OP
Akash Dominic OP
Nabeel Joseph OP

on Completing their Philosophical Studies
Summer Study Program

The Regent of Studies along with the Formation Council organized an annual summer study program of two weeks which was held at Ibn-e-Mariam Dominican House of Studies, Pak-Arb Lahore from July 24 - August 14, 2019. The Regent of Studies, Rev Fr Pascal Paul OP introduced the theme of summer study program, entitled "St. Thomas Aquinas and Sacramental Theology".

He briefed about the study program to the student brothers and shared that St. Thomas Aquinas is the prominent figure in the Church. Presenting the short biography of St. Thomas Aquinas, he said that St. Thomas was the son of a noble family. He was born in 1225 and died in 1274. In 1242 he became a Dominican. He further said that he is our hero, our brother, and Doctor of the Church. He was an outstanding preacher, a well-known philosopher and renowned theologian. He was the founder of Thomistic School of Thought.
He concluded his session quoting St. Thomas Aquinas that "friendship is the source of greatest pleasure and we need to find the best friend to whom we can trust". He said that Jesus Christ is our best and very close friend. Let us proclaim and preach our friend's teaching. We see often preachers preach themselves instead of Christ. We must preach Jesus Christ as St. Thomas preached through his outstanding writings and life witness.

This program was ended on August 14, 2019 with the Holy Mass presided over by Very Rev. Fr Younas Shahzad OP. He thanked all the contributors who made great efforts to make this program successful. He shared that brothers gave feedback and said, that program was well arranged; they appreciated the theme and liked the atmosphere. At the end of the Summer Study Program a picnic was arranged which refreshed the brothers.

Fr Pascal Paulus OP (the Regent of Studies) shared that Frs Jamshed Albert OP, Patrick Peter OP and Akhtar Naveed OP were the main resource persons whereas Fr Taufiq and Fr Younas also contributed. All of them were well prepared and delivered outstanding lectures throughout the Summer Study Program. On the last day Prior Vice Provincial very Rev Fr Younas Shahzad OP and professors of St. Francis Xavier seminary were invited. Fr Pascal Paulus OP thanked very Rev Fr Younas Shahzad for his presence and encouraging words at the end of the Program. Fr Pascal Paulus OP also thanked all those who contributed to make this program successful.

Fr Younas Shahzad thanked and appreciated the efforts of Fr Pascal Paulus (Regent of Studies), Fr Akhtar, Fr Patrick and Fr Jamshed Albert OP.
Monastery a Place of Prayer and Meditation

It is said that Saint Dominic was first of all contemplative and then he shared his contemplation through his preaching. Characteristically he laid the foundation of Dominican monastic life in 1206 by starting a community for women converts at Prouille France. Later gradually many monasteries in many countries emerged with the passage of time.

I got the opportunity to be at the Monastery of Santa Maria Della Neve a San Dominic three times. It is situated in Pratovecchio in the region of Tuscana. At the moment there are 12 contemplative nuns. I was impressed by their joyfulness, prayerfulness and contemplative life. Comparatively these nuns are a little modern to the changing realities of present times. They are empowered by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, alert to the signs of the times and working for the Gospel values. They are living in the newly built monastery which is without grills. They mix up and meet the people after every Eucharistic celebration particularly after Sunday Mass. They use modern means of communication e.g internet, whatsapp etc.

Being the followers of St. Dominic, they live joyfully in the community life. Besides the office and contemplation, they do daily routine works for example cooking, gardening, counselling and cleaning. They welcome the guests, welcoming the guests is their way of preaching. Some of them prepare hosts for Eucharistic celebrations. Some do extraordinary paintings on the requests of bishops, priests, and laity.

St. Francis said that preach the gospel and use words if necessary. Preaching the Gospel is very visible in their day to day life. They preach the gospel by their presence, through
painting, art, music, conducting various meetings and workshops, daily reflections by whatsapp groups, meeting and speaking and serving to the people who come to them.

They have devoted their lives for contemplation and prayer. They say liturgy of the hours very devotedly. They chant almost all the liturgy of the hours particularly morning and evening prayers. Some of the sisters are God gifted in the field of music they have written and compose lyrics for the liturgical celebrations. They observe silence and listens to the voice of the Lord in their cells. They observe silence and listen daily gospel passages and reflections while dinning six days in a week but on Sundays and other solemnities they speak during their meals time. They do Eucharistic Adoration regularly.

The community aspect is very strong in them. They love, care, help and support all the community members especially elderly and the sick ones. Like the other Dominican communities, the recreation is compulsory every day after the evening meals they sit together and share their experiences, future plans and daily activities. They rejoice, thank God for daily accomplishments and appreciate each other for their God gifted skills. This way they remain well communicated and informed about each other's daily activities.

I have learnt that in most of the Dominican convents they try to live exemplary life. Comparatively they are very much advance in all aspects of Dominican life. I pray that each son of our Vice Province may also be the source of Joy, love and encouragement for the brethren.
Saint Dominic was born in Caleruega, Spain in 1170. His parents were members of the Spanish nobility and related to the ruling family. It is known that Dominic was educated in Palencia. He concentrated on theology and arts. He spent six years studying theology and four years studying arts. He was widely acclaimed as an exemplary student by his professors. In 1191, a famine left many people desolate and homeless across Spain. Dominic sold everything he had, including his furniture, clothes, books and bought food for the poor. When he sold his manuscripts, required for study, he said, "Would you have me study from these dead skins when people are dying of hunger?"

Every year on 8th of August Dominican Fathers and Sisters of Missionaries of the Schools celebrate the feast of St. Dominic with devotion and great honour. For us, as Dominicans the feast of St. Dominic has a specific devotion; we honour with filial love our blessed Father Dominic, from whom we learn to take up the task. In order to prepare ourselves spiritually, like every previous year, this year too the feast day celebration was followed by nine days of the novena.

The church was decorated elegantly on this occasion. The fresh flowers on the altar and the surrounding area were aesthetically arranged giving an aura of elegance and solemnity to the annual feast. Young postulants in the formation along with Sr Zunera Anwar OP showed great devotion and love by preparing readings, intercessions, and Mass offerings. The choir, excellently trained by Sr Costanza Mary Salamat OP for this special occasion lifted up spirit of those who attended the festive Mass with their melodious and enchanting singing to the tunes of the keyboard. The festive solemn high Mass started at 5:30 P.M. Rev Fr Irfan Jerome OP House Superior, Rev Fr Rocus Patras OP, Rev Fr Zahid Augustine OP (Parish Priest) came in
procession with the Altar Servers leading their way to the altar to celebrate the solemn festive Mass. The church was full to the capacity and arrangements were made for the faithful to attend the festive Mass in the church. The Main Celebrant with co-celebrates celebrated solemn festive Mass while Rev Fr Irfan Jerome OP preached the Word of God. In his homily he emphasized the holiness of St. Dominic, especially the four particular traits of St. Dominic's life. He said that Dominic was a man of prayer, a man of study, a man of community and a man for others.

Before concluding the last prayer, the aspirants of Dominican sisters of the Missionary of Schools presented the nine ways of prayer of St. Dominic to show their devotion to our holy father St. Dominic. Fr Rocus Patras OP concluded the festive Mass by final blessing.
At the end of the festive Mass, Rev Fr Zahid Augustine OP Parish Priest Sacred Heart Catholic Church Sahiwal thanked the main celebrant Rev Fr Irfan Jerome OP, Sr Josephine Micheal OP (Superior) and all those who extended their support for the smooth conduct of the feast. He wished all the parishioners of Sahiwal, and their family members a happy feast of St. Dominic. Soon after the mass, people were seen greeting each other and distributed sweet (*Mathai*). We invited our Dominican priest brothers to have a festive meal together in our convent.

The feast of St. Dominic teaches us as he was a man of prayer, today he wants us also to be the men and women of prayer. He was also a man of study who tells us, to realize that we need to be educated in order to be of service to the people of our day. As a man of community, he asks us to build a strong bond of community life, which is very important to find support from our fellow brothers and sisters. A community is a dynamic place where ideas are shared and spirits are nurtured. St. Dominic was a man for others, who teaches us to learn Gospel values to instruct the truths of the Catholic church to the people in doubt. Today people need to be taught strong doctrine to live Gospel values. May St. Dominic intercede for us from heaven so that we may receive many blessings to carry the mission of Christ with truthfulness on earth.
On Thursday 8th of August 2019, the universal church celebrated the feast of St. Dominic with great enthusiasm and excitement. The Dominican family celebrated it to refresh the Dominican spirit in their lives. Ibn-e-Mariam House of Studies Pak-Arab Lahore arranged a lovely programme in the honor of St. Dominic. This spiritual event began at 5:00 PM in St. Albert the Great Chapel with celebration of the Holy Eucharist. This Holy Mass was presided over by Rev Fr Patrick Samuel OFM(cap) and concelebrated by Rev Fr Younas Shahzad OP and Fr Eric Rassani OFM. On this blissful occasion Fr James Chanan OP, Fr Patrick Peter OP, Fr Akhtar Naveed OP, Fr Atif Anthony OP, Fr Taufiq Dominic OP, Fr Nasir Emmanuel OP and all the Communities of Dominican Sisters were also present.
Introduction of the Holy Mass was given by Rev Fr Younas Shahzad OP who welcomed all the guests. Fr Eric Rassani was the Homilist of the day and in his homily, he highlighted the mystical character of St. Dominic and said, this saint of the church is also known as the founder of the preachers. “He supported the church at that moment when many heresies were spoiling the Christian faith. His saintly life brought many believers back to the Catholic faith which saved the lives of many people. He was a real mystic and man of God”. In his homily, he also mentioned some of the challenges which Pakistani Dominicans are facing. He said being the followers of St. Dominic we have to preach the truth even when we are facing persecutions.

After the Eucharistic celebration, everyone moved towards the Peace Centre where a variety program was arranged. In that variety program, all the Dominican communities presented their tableau and skits on the life of St. Dominic. In the end, Fr Younas Shahzad OP expressed his views. First of all he gave the blessings of the new Master of the Order Rev. Fr Gerard Francisco Timoner III OP to all the Dominicans. He said Dominican Spirituality binds all of us together. St. Dominic worked hard day and night to bring unity among the Christians, now this is our mission to spread the Christian faith in order to bring the people under holy bosom of the Church and for this purpose we have to adopt the gospel values, so that we may become the true disciple of Jesus Christ. The words of gratitude were spoken by Fr Patrick Peter OP and then every body multiplied their joys with festive meal.
On the 14th of August 2019, 72nd Independence Day of Pakistan was celebrated at Lahore Peace Centre Pak-Arab. This celebration was organized by Rev Fr Patrick Peter OP with his student brothers. The chapel was decorated with the national flags and icons. The program began with the Eucharistic Celebration at 5:00 PM. During the Holy Mass different intentions were offered for the progress of our beloved country Pakistan.

After the Holy Mass variety program was held at Peace Centre whose atmosphere inspired every one with patriotic feelings. Rev Fr Younas Shahzad OP (Prior Vice Provincial of Ibn-e-Mariam Vice-Province Pakistan) was the chief guest of the ceremony. A renowned personality in the field of inter-faith religious dialogue Rev Fr James Channan OP and Fr Akhtar Naveed OP (Student Master at Karachi) also graced this occasion with their presence.
Students of the Dominican Sisters of Malta presented beautiful cultural tableau which was highly appreciated by the audience. Children of St. Dominic Sunday School of Youhannabad also presented their variety dance and national songs. Students of Ibn-e-Mariam House of Studies expressed their love for the country by singing the national song. Bro Irfan Christ made a speech on the history of Pakistan in which he mentioned the sacrifices of our ancestors who laid their lives for our beloved country and our better future.

In the end Fr Younas expressed his views by saying that Pakistan is the land of the Holy people and to keep it holy we have to perform our part honestly without any corruption. To co-operate with the governments' policies is also the responsibility of every citizen. We Christians are well known for our honesty among the Muslim community. We have to maintain that dignity with honesty and faithfulness to our beloved country. Our feelings of love and affection are always with our country and being Christians we must be ready to work for the betterment of our country.

At the end of the ceremony, main guests participated in the cake cutting ceremony and wished for the long life of Pakistan. Rev Fr Patrick Peter OP took the opportunity to thank everyone for their participation on this lovely occasion.
On Friday 23rd of August 2019 three of our Dominican friars made their Solemn vows namely Bro Perkash Dominic OP, Bro Arj Bernard OP and Bro Akash Dominic OP, in the Order of Preachers at the hands of very Rev Fr Younas Shahzad OP, the Vice Provincial of Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province Pakistan, at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Faisalabad.

On this occasion with Fr Younas Shahzad OP (Prior Vice Provincial), Fr Pascal Paulus OP (Parish Priest of Holy Rosary Catholic Church Warispura Faisalabad) and Fr Shakeel Gulsher OP, (Novice Master) were the con-celebrants. Fr Irfan Jerome OP was commentator during the ceremony. Fr Naveed Joshua OP (Director of Louis Hall Formation House Multan), was the master of ceremony who assisted during the profession ceremony. Fr Taufiq Dominic OP gave an introduction to the Holy Mass.
In this way we entered the first part of liturgy 'The Word of God' by giving praise to Almighty God with the Choir which was lead by Sr Gloria and Mr Asim, choir incharge of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church. Deacon Bashir Francis OP and Deacon Sabar Liaqat assisted at the liturgy as Deacons. After the Gospel, brothers vowed in the presence of Prior Vice Provincial Fr Younas Shahzad OP to be committed and faithful in Dominican Order till their last breath. Then all the fathers, brothers, sisters and faithful prayed before God for their call with litany of all saints.

Fr Younas Shahzad spoke on the meaning and importance of the vows in religious life. He said that this is a grace filled moment when you make your solemn profession. God has Chosen you, and now you are here to profess evangelical vows of Obedience, Chastity and Poverty in the presence of God, Jesus Christ, Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Dominic, Dominican family and the whole congregation of faithful. While explaining the third faithful evangelical counsel of Poverty he gave reference from the Holy Bible, the gospel of St. Mathew, where we learn the story of a rich young man who wanted to follow Jesus Christ but could not do so due to his wealth. (Mathew: 19: 16-30.)

He said vow means promise, firm determination and faithfulness to God. You are here to present your entire self voluntarily to God.

Furthermore, another reflective point of the homily was that angels kissed Isaiah's lips and blessed him. Similarly, God is blessing your lips too, so that you may also become instruments of the proclamation of God's living Word. In the end while concluding the homily he said God loves you so much that's why He chose you from many. He advised the brothers to always fulfill the will of God by following the footprints of St. Dominic and live their life according to the rules of St Augustine and Dominican Order. Keep the Word of God in the center of your life.

On behalf of solemn professed brothers, Bro Perkash thanked all the fathers, sisters, brothers and all relatives who came all the way to participate in this ceremony. The celebration ended with festive lunch which was served by the Dominican family.
In St. Luke's Parish Shahdra Lahore youth festival was celebrated on 31st August 2019. This youth festival began at 10:00 A.M with the title "Youth, Faith, and Dialogue." In this youth festival, a youth of the whole parish participated from different sub-stations of the parish. At the beginning of the program, Fr Eric Rassani OFM, Fr Toufiq Dominic OP, and Fr Azhar Lal OP were welcomed by all the youth of the parish with garlands. Youth festival began with thanksgiving Mass presided over by Fr Azhar Lal OP. Fr Taufiq Dominic OP was the homilist. In his homily, he highlighted the role of youth in the church and in the nation-building. He said youth is the defender of faith and church has a special place for the youth in her ministries. Now at this present era when youth has lot of attractions in worldly affairs, being the part of the Christian youth we have to become the beacon for the young generation.
After the Eucharistic Celebration Fr Eric Rassani OFM gave a talk to the parish youth. In his talk, he said “youth is a national source of development. They are the nation builders and faith is the element that help them to listen and to practice the Word of God. Faith is the way of life and through dialogue, we can unite the humans with their creator. Dialogue strengthens our social and family bonds with each other”. In our families we lack dialogue between parents and children which gives birth to many misunderstandings and that's why parents don't trust their children and children don't pay attention to their parent's advice.

After the talk of Fr Eric Rassani OFM participants were divided into different groups and were asked to reflect on the current challenges faced by youth in the present situation. They all shared their valuable thoughts and suggestions which were well appreciated by the facilitators. At the end of this youth festival Fr Atif Anthony OP expressed words of gratitude to all facilitators and youth who participated in the festival.
Climate Action for Peace: International Day for Peace

Peace Centre Lahore and United Religions Initiative Pakistan organized an event to celebrate International Day of Peace with set theme of the year by United Nations, "Climate Action for Peace" at Peace Centre Hall on 21st of September 2019. Dr Fr James Channan OP director of Peace Centre and Regional Coordinator Pakistan invited many honorable guests from different cities of Pakistan. Rev Fr Younas Shahzad OP, Prior Vice Provincial of Dominicans in Pakistan, presided over the program. There were many distinguished guests Maulana Zubir Abid Chairman of Interfaith Peace and Harmony Network in Pakistan, Fr Patrick Peter OP Master of Students at Ibn-e-Mariam House, Kanwal Feroze writer and poet, Mr. Sohail Ahmad Raza Director of Interfaith Department at Minhaj University, Dr. Munawar Chand Chairman at Krishna Mandir and Hindu Leader, Mr. Osman Interfaith promoter, Saeed-ur-Rehman Saddiqi from Azad Kashmir, Ahmad Hussain URI CC coordinator and many others.

Program started with planting of a three in the garden and later interfaith prayers were offered for the world’s peace and protection of our Mother Earth through protecting our environment. Miss Sabina Rifat URI Women Coordinator warmly welcomed the honorable guests for joining the celebration. All eminent guests were requested to come forward for lighting the Peace Candle to glow throughout the program. Mr. Faisal Ilyas Executive Secretary Peace Centre Lahore showed the Earth song of late Michael Jackson; "What about sunrise, what about rain..." a famous Earth Song, giving a message to save our habitat, nature all around. The video created a great impact to realize the destruction made by us. Unfortunately, the root causes, of climate change and making our earth crying in pain are cutting of trees and pollution of many kinds.
Dr Fr James Channan OP delivered a thought provoking speech from destructive to constructive behavior of human beings. He said, "United Nation" has set the theme for this year to celebrate International Day of Peace as Climate Action for Peace; we are promoting this theme and SDGs no. 13 Climate Action and no. 16 Peace, Justice and Strong institutions.

Fr Younas Shahzad OP said, "I am extremely happy to see all the arrangements to celebrate 37th International Day of Peace with very relevant theme; Climate Action for Peace. I invite all peace promoters to join us for peace building. Dominicans in Pakistan are supporting the agenda, to protect environment through peaceful measures”.

Secretary General of the United Nations Mr Antonio Guterres's video message was played to know the action towards the betterment of our environment. Miss Zara Pervaiz URI CC Coordinator light of hope organization read the Urdu translation of the video message. Dominican Students sang a beautiful song of peace to involve the audience and to give message of peace. The song was "Make me a Channel of Peace".

Saeed-ur-Rehman Saddiqi from Azad Kashmir, Mufti Ashiq Hussain as an interfaith promoter and Muslim religious scholar, Allama Zubair Abid Religious Scholar, Mr. Osman Saduldeen URI CC Sudanese Community Pakistan from Islamabad, Kanwal Feroze poet and writer, shared their powerful views on climate promotion, Kashmir cause and to promote interfaith harmony.

Dr Fr James Channan OP expressed vote of thanks and appreciated the presence of all the guests. In the end he encouraged and appreciated the staff members of Peace Center and URI in Pakistan.
Sixth Session of the Year of Sacraments

The Catholic Diocese of Multan has declared the year 2019 as the Year of the Sacraments. At the diocese level and the parish level, different seminars were organized on the spirituality of the sacraments. Sacraments are the channels through which we receive special graces from God and know the values of these graces. Episcopal Commission advised all the parish priests to organize different programs for the lay faithful for their sacramental formation.

Keeping the idea of Episcopal Commission, St. Dominic Parish Bahawalpur organized the sixth session of the year of sacraments on the 9th of September 2019. In this seminar, the special guest was Fr Ishaq Ghulam (Director of Catechetical Commission) and Fr Imran Khursheed.
At the beginning of the seminar special prayer was offered for the special intention of the Bishop Benny Mario Travis for this year of the Sacraments. Fr Shahzad Aquinas was the master of ceremony. Welcoming words for the guests and the participants were said by Rev Fr Iftikhar Moon OP (Parish Priest) who also announced the purposes and objectives of the seminar. Fr Maris Javed OP gave a short talk on the Christian initiation. He said these three sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) are the foundation of Christian life so preparation for these sacraments is the most necessary thing. Fr Imran Khursheed spoke about the sacraments of healing (Confession and Anointing of the Sick). He said confession reunites us with God and restore our broken relationship with God. Confession also gives us spiritual healing but it is sad to say that nowadays people are paying a attention to this sacrament, the main reason is that they are losing the sense of sin in their daily life. He said anointing of the sick gives us hope for eternal life. Fr Ishaq Ghulam talked about the sacraments of vocation (Holy Order and Marriage). He said both of these sacraments are sacrament of the covenant. They require a lifelong commitment. These sacraments need spiritual strength which a person gains through spiritual exercises.

At the end of the seminar words of gratitude were expressed by the parish priest and all the participants were invited to join the meal.
14th September was a remarkable day in the history of the local church in Pakistan. One of our young Dominican brother Deacon Zeeshan Francisco OP, was ordained as priest. The ordination ceremony was held in the Holy Rosary Catholic Church Warispura, Faisalabad. His Grace Archbishop Joseph Arshad (Bishop of Islamabad Rawalpindi Diocese) ordained him.

Bishop urged Zeeshan Francisco and all other priests to be faithful to the three offices of Christ which are to be ministered. These three offices are: teaching, preaching and shepherding. His Grace also encouraged the young minister to keep mother Mary as his role model. Now a days there are many wolves around who are misleading the sheep of Christ.

In the end, Rev Fr Younas Shahzad OP Vice Provincial of the Dominican Order in Pakistan thanked Bishop Joseph for ordaining our young friar. At this historical event Dominican priests, sisters, relatives of the brothers and many lay persons were also present.

Fr Zeeshan is presently assigned in the House of Studies Karachi as assistant student master and doing his B.ed from Notre Dame Institute Karachi. On behalf of Dominican family we congratulate him on his ordination to the Holy Order and wish him good luck for his life as a priest.
Ibn-e-Mariam
Vice Province Pakistan