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Greetings of Peace to All

Dominican Order is the Order of Preachers. St. Dominic de Guzman founded the Order and chose its motto VERITAS which means Truth. The goal of the Order of Preachers is to preach the Word of God and to share the fruits of our contemplation with other people for the salvation of their souls.

St. Dominic was a man of God and a man of prayer. He was a man of healing and of compassion. Slogan of the Order is Laudare (to praise), BENEDICERE (to bless), and PRAEDICARE (to preach). Following the footsteps of our Holy Father St. Dominic, the Dominican Friars are carrying on the mission of Jesus Christ to the entire world. Dominicans in Pakistan as sons of Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province are continuing the preaching mission of St. Dominic with full zeal and zest.

I express my best wishes to Very Rev Fr Younas Shahzad OP on his election as a Prior Vice Provincial on 1st of March 2019 and the confirmation of his election by Brother Bruno Cadore OP., (Prot. 43/19/139 CP). It is a time to acknowledge and pay tribute to the services of Rev Fr Pascal Paulus OP the former vice provincial who led the Vice-Province for eight years and worked hard day and night for the welfare and growth of the Ibn-e-Mariam Vice-Province, Pakistan.

I am grateful to the Vice Provincial Council for entrusting to me the responsibility of Dominican News Letter. I acknowledge the role of Rev Fr Raphael Mehnga OP and Bro Perkash Dominic OP who made this News Letter possible with their untiring efforts. The purpose of this Dominican News Letter is to share the spiritual and faith-filled experiences of the friars with others. Through this News Letter we will be able to share our activities with others on broader level. Let us contribute to the Ibn-e-Mariam Vice-Province of Pakistan with all our gifts and talents.
The Elective Chapter of Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province, Pakistan was held from 28th of February to 7th of March 2019 at Ibn-e-Mariam House of Studies Lahore. In accord with LCO # 335, the former Prior Vice Provincial, Rev Fr Pascal Paulus OP by his letter of November 6, 2018 convoked the Elective Chapter of the Vice Province of Pakistan. The Prior Vice Provincial with his Council determined four electoral colleges according to the norms of LCO #498 and #499 for election of the delegates.

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<th>St. Thomas College</th>
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<td>Akhtar Naveed</td>
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<td>Thomas Bhatti</td>
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<td>Zahid Augustine</td>
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At the opening of the Chapter on 28th February 2019, all the Vocals were present:

Fr. Marcus Daniel, Vicar of the Vice Province.
Maris Javed, Prior of St. Dominic Priory Bahawalpur.
Pascal Paulus, former Vice Provincial.

The delegates of the colleges were:

St. Dominic College: Fr Almas Silas
St. Albert College: Deacon Bashir Francis
St. Thomas College: Fr Zahid Augustine
St. Martin College: Fr James Channan.

Three supplementary vocals (LCO # 352, II) were also elected namely:

First Supplementary Vocal: Siddique M. Sunder,
Second Supplementary Vocal: Patrick Peter
Third Supplementary Vocal: Marcus Daniel

Participated in the election of the new leadership.

In the evening of 28th February 2019, the Delegates, brothers and guests celebrated Mass of the Holy Spirit with His Grace Sebastian Francis Shaw, OFM, Archbishop of Lahore and Pascal Paulus former Vice Provincial. His Grace was the main celebrant and homilist. Later in the morning of 1st March 2019 Fr Siddique M. Sunder, Fr James Channan and Fr Pascal Paulus examined and approved the testimonial letters of the Delegates. On the 1st March 2019 brothers and invitees in plenary session, discussed the needs and challenges to the Vice Province; their expectations, and the qualities they would like to see in the new Vice Provincial.
Later in the morning of 1\textsuperscript{st} March 2019, the delegates met and the election of the Vice Provincial was duly held. Rev Fr Younas Shahzad OP was elected Vice Provincial and the Master of the Order was petitioned to approve the election. The Master of the Order confirmed the election by email on 1\textsuperscript{st} of March 2019 (Prot. 43/19/139 CP) and on the next day, Fr. Younas Shahzad notified to the Master of the Order by e-mail of his acceptance of the office of the Vice Provincial. After the confirmation of the election of the new Prior Vice Provincial the election of the definitors was held on 2\textsuperscript{nd} of March. Later on, the reports of the officials of the Vice Province were presented, discussed and accepted by the Chapter. The process of legislation of the new Acts of the Elective Chapter continued. The chapter was ended on the 7\textsuperscript{th} of March.
In Proverbs 29:18, It is written “where there is no vision, people perish”

My dear brothers in St. Dominic, I am grateful to God and to the members of the entire vice province who have entrusted upon me the opportunity to serve and to lead the vice province with a great vision and mission. I would like to state that Provincialship is not a prestigious rank, high status or lofty position rather it is a humble service to the brethren and a very demanding responsibility. I am grateful to Master of the Order Rev Fr Bruno Cadre OP for respecting the mandate given by our delegates, have confirmed my election and sent his best wishes and blessings for the success of my mission. My dear brothers, I am one of you and for you. I am your brother and first among the equals. I thank the Master of the Order for approving my election.

Getting inspiration from the book of Deuteronomy 30:19-20 where it is written, “This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him”. Jesus's sole purpose of coming into this world was to give us life and life in abundance.

I choose the word “Life” as a vision for next four years. The Word “LIFE” stands for four priorities which I choose for my tenure. “L” signifies Legacy of the Order which I would try to promote. “I” stands for Intellectual Tradition of the Order which will be taken forward. “F” denotes Fraternity (Dominican Family) which will be united through common vision and joint ventures. “E” indicates Economic Stability for which I have to struggle hard. Referring to the Gospel of Matthew I would say that in the kingdom of God “last shall
become the first and first shall become the last” (Mt 20: 16). So in our case also last becomes the first. I mean in word Life last alphabet is E which becomes my first priority during the first year of my tenure. I decide today to make each and every effort to overcome the fragile economic situation of our Vice Province.

I am thankful to Fr. Pascal Paulus OP the former Vice Provincial for his eminent and splendid services as a brother and leader. Dear Fr Pascal Paulus OP, well done! You did a wonderful job and you kept up the mission of St. Dominic like your predecessors. I assure you that in the same manner; I will keep up the Dominican legacy and will continue the initiatives which you began during your tenure. Further, I will start many new initiatives and new apostolates. I am very impressed by the way you led our Vice Province for two terms. Your preaching was always well prepared and reflections were thought-provoking, your time management has been the hallmark of your personality. You kept constant communication with all the friars as an approachable and available brother and leader. You regularly participated in the joys and sorrows of our friars and showed your solidarity with their families and stood with them in the moments of sorrows and troubles. Your sense of humor and friendliness was making your presence very joyful and pleasant. You served us very humbly and at times showed firmness of your leadership.

My dear brothers, our Vice Province is blessed with manifold blessings, the missionary endeavor started by Italian missionaries in 1931 and joined by American missionaries in 1956 resulted as an independent entity called Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province Pakistan in 1982. Currently there are all local friars except Fr. Amato Aldina OP an Italian priest.

Our Vice Province is tiny but blessed with many fold blessings; we have plenty of vocations, lots of assets and talents. Among friars there is about 75% youth. Many of them are under formation and some are newly ordained priests. They need close attention, proper guidance and a specific direction. Our young priests are very promising. They are ready to take risks and prepare to face challenges of different ministries. In our Province, I see gifted artists and remarkable poets like Fr Siddique M Sundar OP, I see prominent sociologists like Fr Rehmat Raja OP, I see proficient philosophers like Fr Raphael Mehnga OP, I see experienced educators like Fr Nadeem Joseph OP,
I see capable moral theologian like Fr Jamshed Albert OP, I see skilled Islamic scholars like Fr Pascal Paulus OP, I see an expert in interfaith dialogue like Fr James Channan OP, I see tribal and prison minister in Deacon Bashir Francis OP, I see spiritual theologians like Fr Akhtar Naveed OP and Fr James Samuel OP, Orators and debtors like Fr Iftikhar Moon OP, liturgists like Fr Patrick Peter OP and mission theologian like Fr Marcus Daniel OP, canon lawer like Fr Maris Javed OP, longstanding pastors and promoter of ecumenism like Fr Yaqub Farooq OP and Fr Thomas Bhatti OP, inspirational preachers like Fr Rocus Patras OP and systematic theologian like me.

We have professors, doctors and retreat preachers. All these are gems of our Vice Province but presently none of our Dominican friars is on the teaching staff of St. Francis Xavier Seminary Lahore and National Catholic Institute of Theology Karachi. Such things need to be addressed and we have to fill this vacuum. We urgently need to send our young friars for higher studies in specific fields like theology, scripture, canon law, moral theology and philosophy so that this vacuum may be filled and we may again gain our Dominican identity as teachers.

In consultation with regent of studies, I will make a list of our young friars who in their turn will go for foreign studies and after successful studies on their return will teach in the seminaries which is our Dominican charism. Presently website of the Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province is not in function and other people around the world cannot be in touch with us through media. This is the era of mass media, so we will work on that, we need to work on the Dominican News Letter which was going very well but due to certain reasons was stopped and we will restart it.

A library at Provinciate needs to be re-established where Acts of the different General Chapters or Elective Chapters and Acts of our Vice Province and Ratio should be kept. I wish that libraries become references for our research work. I wish that there should be also a sound library in Karachi, where theological books are kept for theological research. A library based on philosophy books at Ibn-e-Mariam House Pak-Arab Lahore is also needed so that
our students may get most of the matter which they want to research. Prastish (Worship) Magazine quarterly needs to be put on website, many research articles which are written by our brothers, thesis worked out by our brothers must be published and should be put on the website so that others may read and profit from them.

Unified policy for schools is needed and handing over is very much needed. It needs to be done appropriately when one friar is transferred to another place. When outgoing friar leaves and the incoming friar arrives, the one who comes starts murmuring here and there, but if handing over is properly done and both are satisfied, then things will move on smoothly. Annual meetings of all pastors and all assist pastors, all superiors and formators need to be called to give progress and discuss their genuine issues and proper guidelines and full planning.

When friars produce research papers, their paper needs to be published. Our formation houses are given a lot of budget but the outcome is very less, so we need to stress on the results and on the outcome. With this in mind let us start the new beginning for which we have joined the Order to build the kingdom of God, to generate the peace of Christ and to promote the culture of love. Please continue your prayers for me so that I may serve you lovingly and whole heartedly. May God bless you all!

March 5, 2019
St. Albert the Great Chapel
Ibn-e-Mariam House of Studies, Lahore
### New Appointments by the Provincial Chapter

The Following Appointments were made by the Chapter (LCO#380)

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<td>Director of Peace Centre</td>
<td>James Chanan OP (Director)</td>
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<td>Taufique Dominic OP (Assistant)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Promoters of Vocations</td>
<td>Alven Mehraj (Director)</td>
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<td>Bashir Francis (Assistant)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Regent of Studies</td>
<td>Pascal Paulus OP</td>
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<td>Permanent Formater</td>
<td>Jameshed Albert OP</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Louis Hall Dominican House of Formation, Multan</td>
<td>Naveed Joshua OP (Director)</td>
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<td>Haroon Ilyas OP (Assistant)</td>
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<td>St. Dominic Novitiate House Warispora, Faisalabad</td>
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<td>Ibn-e-Mariam House of Studies for Philosophy, Lahore</td>
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<td>Nasir Emmanuel OP (Assistant)</td>
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<td>Dominican House of Studies, Karachi</td>
<td>Akhtar Naveed OP (Master of Students)</td>
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<td>Deacon Zeeshan Francisco OP (Assistant)</td>
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<td>Promoters of Justice and Peace</td>
<td>Iftikhar Moon OP (Chairperson)</td>
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<td>Nadeem Joseph OP (Assistant)</td>
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<td>Pascal Paulus (Assistant)</td>
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<td>Promoters of Youth and International Dominican Youth Movement (IDYM)</td>
<td>Azhar Lal OP (Chairperson)</td>
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<td>Shahzad Aquinas OP (Assistant)</td>
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<td>Zeeshan Francisco OP (Assistant)</td>
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<td>Syndic of the Vice Province</td>
<td>Patrick Peter OP (Syndic)</td>
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<td>Naveed Joshua OP (Assistant Syndic)</td>
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<td>Naveed Joshua OP (Assistant Syndic)</td>
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<td>Siddique M. Sunder OP (Member)</td>
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<td>Maris Javed OP (Chairperson)</td>
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<td>Shahzad Aquinas OP (Assistant)</td>
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<td>Dominican History Project</td>
<td>Rehmat Raja OP (Chairperson)</td>
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<td>Younas Shahzad OP (Assistant)</td>
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<td>Preaching Team</td>
<td>Yaqoob Farooq OP (Chairperson)</td>
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<td>Promoters of Dominican Family</td>
<td>Raphael Mehnga OP (Chairperson)</td>
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<td>Marcus Daniel OP (Assistant)</td>
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<td>Zahid Augustine OP (Assistant)</td>
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<td>Tribal Mission</td>
<td>Bashir Francis OP (Chairperson)</td>
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<td>Promoters of Rosary</td>
<td>Marcus Daniel OP (Chairperson)</td>
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<td>James Samuel OP (Chairperson)</td>
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<td>Atif Anthony OP (Assistant)</td>
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<td>Board of Admission to the Pre- Novitiate and Novitiate</td>
<td>Alven Mehraj OP (Promoter of Vocations)</td>
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<td>Bashir Francis OP (Assistant Promoter of Vocations)</td>
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<td>Haroon Ilyas OP (Assistant Director of Louis Hall, Dominican House of Formation, Multan)</td>
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<td>Shakeel Michael OP (Master of Novices)</td>
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<td>One Friars appointed by the Vice Provincial who is a member of the community where interviews are conducted.</td>
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Approval of the Acts of the Elective Chapter

FRATRES ORDINIS PRÆDICATORUM
CURIA GENERALITIA

Rome, 17 April 2019
Prot. N. 43/19/215_CP

To Brother Younas Shahzad OP, Prior Vice Provincial, and the Brothers of the Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province, Pakistan

Having carefully read the Acts of your Vice Provincial Chapter celebrated at Ibn-e-Mariam House, Lahore from February 28 to March 7, 2019; and having discussed them with the members of the General Council, I hereby approve these Acts as well as the Statutes of your Province.

You have clearly stated the main challenge for Dominican preaching in your country where Christianity is a minority. To be sure, Christianity is also becoming a "minority" in some parts of the world because religion is increasingly marginalized and pushed to the private sphere. However, just like in some places where there is religious persecution, you face the greater challenge of being a minority that has to contend with threats precisely because you preach the Gospel. Please know that I and the rest of the Order are one with you in your courageous desire to live the apostolic life and preach the Gospel in tough and trying situations. Be mindful that part of the challenge when we are a "minority" is how to avoid the possibility of becoming a "residual minority" that lies stagnant at the bottom, incessantly striving to remain a "vibrant remnant" that serves as leaven for human society.

Your desire to have a commission that will engage in serious theological research, with concrete proposals for promoting peace and harmony among the religious groups in Pakistan (Acts 2019, no. 23) is commendable and deserves the support of all the brothers. We ask the Prior Vice Provincial and Council to set the concrete objectives for this commission and
specific time table for obtaining such objectives. Furthermore, I believe that the brothers who will undertake this research project would find the "Theology of Harmony" developed by the Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences as a useful starting point for its theological reflection that is aimed at the promotion of peace and harmony in the specific context of Pakistan. I would be happy to receive a copy of the results of the work of this commission.

The importance of dialogue between Christians and Muslims cannot be over-emphasized in your country. The Peace Center in Lahore has successfully provided the forum for such dialogue. Both the former Vice Provincial in his report at the end of his term and the Chapter recommended the strengthening of this Center by asking both the Director of the Peace Center and the Regent of Studies to "provide a platform for study and research in theology, liturgy, St. Thomas Aquinas, Interreligious Dialogue and to publish a theological periodical on a regular basis" (Acts 2019, 18). I wonder how this provision, which needs to be seriously implemented, is related with the commission mentioned in no. 23 of your Acts. Please make sure that you find ways of collaboration and integration in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of work.

It is noteworthy that the chapter has responded positively to the recommendation of the former Vice Provincial to strengthen the mission of the brothers to the Tribal community by establishing "a mission station in Yazman-Mandi Bahawalpur" (Acts 2019, 19). Suitable and gradual introduction of the brothers in initial formation to apostolates like this would help make such "mission to the periphery" become "central" to the life of the brothers.

Your recommendation for the leadership of the vice province "to prioritize the development of a culture of permanent formation throughout the Vice Province" (Acts 2019, 62) deserves serious and urgent attention. In fact, an important first step to achieve this goal is to formulate the Ratio Formationis Particularis and Ratio Studiorum Particularis and submit these to the General Curia within six months after the promulgation of the Acts. I must reiterate here that in writing these rationes, please be mindful of the continuity between institutional and permanent formation and the equal importance you must give to these two dimensions of
the formation of a "Dominican preacher, one who will be a preacher of grace and a true witness to Christ." I ask you also, that in the course of preparing the RFP and RSP, you make a serious reflection on the initial intellectual formation of your brothers, particularly on the ways in which you supplement what they receive elsewhere with courses specifically focused on the Dominican intellectual tradition. The RSP should say how these supplementary courses are to be arranged. At the midterm council in 2021 you should evaluate how this arrangement is working. We understand that the generation of funds is necessary to support formation, the life and apostolate of the brothers, etc. However, no. 59 of the Acts is presented as though the generation of funds becomes the goal of your mission. This is clearly not what you intend, thus the need to reformulate this provision. I note too that this is a repetition of the same recommendation in the 2011 and 2015 vice provincial chapters.

There are a lot of repetitions e.g. ordinations 15, 16, 17, 27, 57, 59 of the Acts of 2019 are repetitions of the ordinations 15, 17, 18, 44, 80, 76 of the Acts of 2015; recommendations 24, 58 of the present Acts are repetitions of recommendations 28, 58 of the previous Acts of 2015. The “re-enactment” of ordinations, recommendations etc. from chapter to chapter implies: either ordinations, recommendations etc. are not implemented, thus the need to repeat them, or these have a permanent importance; thus, they need to be moved to the Statutes which would give them a more permanent place in the legislation of the vice province. If the reason is the former, I ask you and your council to find concrete ways to have these implemented within four years so that there is no need to repeat them in the next vice provincial chapter, otherwise, repetitions can weaken confidence in your capacity to enact legislation and make them effective. Certainly, if the reason is the latter, then see to it that these become part of your statutes in the next vice provincial chapter.

When these Acts have been promulgated, I ask you to ensure that each brother of the vice province receives a copy and that they will read and discuss these in their respective communities. Please send five copies to the curia of the Order in Santa Sabina, including an electronic version.
I wish to thank you, Br Younas for your generosity in accepting the office of Prior Vice Provincial. Likewise, I thank Br Pascal Paulus for his dedicated service as Prior Vice Provincial for the last eight years. I am also grateful for all the good your vice province has done for the Order and for its active participation in the activities of the Asia Pacific Region. May all the brothers of the Ibn-e-Mariam become more and more faithful sons of Blessed Mary as you preach her Son Jesus, the Incarnate Word.

With my fraternal best wishes for a grace-filled Easter, I am fraternally yours in St. Dominic.

br Bruno Cadoré, OP
Master of the Order
Holy Rosary Parish organized different religious, spiritual, cultural programs and national festivals throughout the whole year. The following programs were held at the parish during the Lenten season.

**Bible Study Program**
There have been many seminars held in the parish with different topics but this year, in the beginning of the Lenten Season St. Jerome Bible Study Group organized a series of scripture reading programs with the purpose to read and to reflect on the entire Holy Bible. In this Bible’s Marathon different Christian faithful and round about 43 groups participated. This Bible Marathon started on the Ash Wednesday with an opening ceremony led by Rev Fr Karman Taj (Vicar General Faisalabad Diocese) and the closing ceremony was performed by the Prior Vice Provincial, Ibn-e-Mariam Vice-Province Pakistan, Rev Fr Younas Shahzad OP. At the end of the ceremony, different prizes of appreciation were given to youth. In this blessed season, different Lenten messages were published and circulated on social media. To promote the love of the Sacred Scripture 32 points were given by Rev Fr Pascal Paulus OP as guideline to the members of St. Jerome Bible Study Group.

**Charity Works**
During the Lenten Season activities of charity were performed by a pastoral team of the Holy Rosary Parish to help the poor Christian families. The charity goods were disturbed in the four different areas namely Barketpura, Warispura, Daud Nagar and Bilal Town.
Psalm Sunday
In the procession of Psalms Sunday huge crowd of people gathered in front of the church gate. They carried with them panaflex, palm branches, banners and play cards to welcome Christ the Universal King. Under the guidance of Rev Fr Pascal Paulus OP, the procession went through the streets of Barket Pura and Warispura. People threw rose petals from their roof tops and warmly welcomed the procession among them.

Holy Week
Throughout the Holy Week, different spiritual activities were organized for the faithful. On Holy Thursday, the pastoral team arranged a special evening to reflect on the passions of Christ. On Good Friday, Rev Fr Pascal Paulus OP, the Parish Priest, highlighted the victory of Jesus Christ over sin through his death. All the programs of the Holy Week were well organized and well managed. Bro Emmanuel Fazal OP also contributed a lot for the arrangements of these programs. A procession with the candles started from the gate went to Church on the Easter Vigil, Fr Pascal thanked his pastoral team and all the parishioners for their cooperation and support to the church.
During the Lenten Season different programs were held at St. Luke's Parish Shahdra Lahore, under the guidance of Rev Fr Atif Anthony OP, Parish Priest. To contemplate the suffering and passion of Christ' special program with the name of Calvary’s Glory was organized at main Parish Church on 10th of April 2019. The program started at 5 PM with the opening prayer of Catechist George Inayat. Christian community from different sub-stations came to the central church of the parish. Many singers were invited from different places, they sang Hymns related to the passions of Christ. Poets of the parish also expressed their sentimental poetry and helped the people to have a deep reflection on the passion of Christ. After the hymn in silence people reflected and prayed for their different intension. Rev Fr Atif OP also addressed to the congregation and said, “We must in our prayers learn to meditate upon the passion of our Lord with great devotion. Perhaps it is easier to look at the Resurrection of Christ and his Triumphant victory over death.” In the end, he thanked the entire congregation and invited them to share a meal.
URI Pakistan organized a panel discussion on Earth Day, 2019 with the theme of Environmental Pollution and our Responsibility. On April 23rd 2019 URI Pakistan arranged this panel discussion with the collaboration of COPE Pakistan, Peace Center Lahore, Faces Pakistan and Kul Masalik Ulma Board at Peace Centre. Guest of honors were Bishop Irfan Jamil Church of Pakistan, Muhammad Rizwan, Dr Fr James Channan OP, Maulana Muhammad Asim Makhdoom, Mufti Ashiq Hussain, Pastor Majid Abel, Pastor Amjad Niamat, Pir Akhtar Rasool, Muhmmad Pervaiz Saqi, Rev Dr Marcus Fida, Allama Ayub Khan, Maulana Muhammad Hussain, Sohail Ahmad Raza, Javed William, Syed Naubahan, S.A Jaffary, Qari Asgar Hanif, Fr Marcus Daniel OP and Mr. Asher Nazir.
After interfaith prayers Mr. Asher Nazir Executive Secretary URI Pakistan and coordinator COPE Pakistan welcomed all the guests and shared that nature is the mother of everyone. Before we were born the nature was already there. God created it for us and for everyone. Nature is the source of our life. He invited Fr James Channan OP to share the objectives of this program with the participants.

Fr. James Channan OP shared that today the entire world is facing global warming. People are facing problem by nature in different countries. Pakistan is also affected by it. For clean and green Pakistan we have to plant trees, because if we are not part of the solution then we are part of the pollution. So we have no time to waste. Nature is like air: if you breathe it, you cannot feel it. But when it is lacking you will very strongly feel its importance. We should care for our Earth. Provincial Minister of Environment Punjab shared his view that Government of Pakistan is working on tree plantation in Pakistan and today I am happy to participate in this program. I congratulate Fr James Channan OP for organizing this program on Earth Day with the theme of
Environmental Pollution and our Responsibility. Today our World appeals to us that we must contribute something to our environment and reduce pollution by planting a tree. Join hands with us, and let us make this world a better place, everyone has to play his role. Therefore, we encourage each of you to take initiatives in any way you can. It doesn't matter if you are a student, a working professional, a house wife or an organization.

Bishop Irfan Jamil watering the newly planted tree.

All panelists agreed that together we should work on plantation in Pakistan. Without nature, there would be no houses, no food, no air and no life. Nature brings balance in our lives. Each one of us has to fight for the survival of the other. Nature is the king of joy. With Bishop Irfan Jamil Church of Pakistan and Muhammad Rizwan Provincial Minister Environment Punjab all the honorable guests planted a tree and offered prayers together as Christians and Muslims for peace of Pakistan. Mr.Javed William President Faces Pakistan thanked all participants and said that for our environment we should take some practical steps and plant trees in different places and venues. Today we have people from different institutions, organizations and media. Now this is our responsibility to work for plantation in order to make Pakistan clean and green. Bishop Ifran Jamil said that the next tree will be planted at Cathedral Church of Pakistan in Lahore.
Highlights of The Elective Chapter 2019

New Prior Vice Provincial with Former Provincials

Prior Vice Provincial with the Definiters

Friars at Prayer

Prior Vice Provincial with his Council

Secretaries of the Chapter

Chapter in progress
Congratulations

Rev Fr Younas Shahzad CP
as a New Prior
Vice Provincial of
Ibn-e-Mariam
Vice Province
Pakistan.

Rev, Fr. Nadeem Joseph op.

We Dominicans

Congratulate you on

Your Remarkable Success in Your M. Phil Studies

Dominican News Letter
Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province Pakistan
I brother Younas Shahzad OP wish you all happy birthdays. I acknowledge your presence and services in the Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province, Pakistan.

You all are very precious and wonderful persons in the Dominican Order. I hope that your special day is the beginning of another amazing year. May Heavenly Father Bless you all with His countless blessings and grant you good health and long lives

with best wishes.

(Fr Younas Shahzad OP)
Prior Vice Provincial
We the Sons of Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province Pakistan wish you all happy Easter
We Condemn the Terrorist's attacks in Sri Lanka

We as Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs from Pakistan share your grief and pain. May the Risen Lord Jesus Christ console and wipe out your tears. Amen!

URI Pakistan and Peace Centre, Lahore organized interfaith prayer service for the victims of Sri Lanka on 23rd April, 2019 at Peace Centre Lahore with the collaboration of Faces Pakistan, Kul Masalik Ulama Board and URI Women Wing Pakistan. Interfaith leaders from Muslims and Christians said that we condemn the terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka's churches and hotels and we are expressing our condolences through our interfaith prayers with Sri Lankan brothers and sisters.

Religious leaders from Christians and Muslims are praying for Sri Lankan people at Peace Center Lahore, Pakistan
Candle light prayer was attended by representatives of different civil society organizations, lawyers, teachers, priests, nuns and political and religious figures of Lahore. Many religious leaders from Muslims and Christians present were sad: Maulana Muhammad Asim Makhdoom, Mufti Ashiq Hussain, Pastor Majid Abel, Pastor Amjad Nimat, Pir Akhtar Rasool, Muhammad Pervaiz Saqi, Dr. Marcus Fida, Allama Ayub Khan, Maulana Muhammad Hussain, Sohail Ahmad Raza, Syed Nubhar, S.A Jaffary, Qari Asgar Hanif, Fr. Marcus Daniel OP and they came for solidarity and condolences for Sri Lankan people.

Fr. James Channan OP shared his views that Interfaith and Intra-faith leadership of Pakistan condemn the act of brutality against humanity, the horrifying incident that took place on Easter Sunday in churches and hotels of Sri Lanka. The death toll rose to 361. Many children too died on that day who recently received their First Communion. Tuesday, April 23 was declared a national day of mourning.

The dead included 35 foreigners as well, from Poland, Denmark, China, Japan, Pakistan, the United States, India, Morocco, UK and Bangladesh. At least four US citizens have been killed. He said that we unite to build a culture of peace and justice. We unite to heal and protect the earth. We unite to build safe places for conflict resolution, healing and reconciliation. He said that God is creator of all human being and this beautiful world. God
loves everyone and we are the great creation of God. He does not want anyone to die because He loves us. Today we are gathered as Christians and Muslims and we strongly condemn the terrorist's attacks in Sri Lanka.

Bishop Irfan Jamil shared that the purpose of this kind of violence wherever it occurs in the world is to create fear and isolation, separating us from each other and splintering the human family. We unite to use our combined resources only for nonviolent, compassionate actions, to awaken to our deepest truths, and to manifest love and justice among all life on Earth. He said that if we are united and together and we want peace and interfaith harmony, then our unity should be shown in our daily life. Today people are using religion in our politics and we are dividing people and promoting hate. Mostly people do not want to know positive and common things of other's religions. May be this is our nature that we debate that we are good and our religion is better. Our children learn from parents and society. If we teach them that we are equal and we should love one another then society will change. In our syllabus we should promote positive values of all religions because we are all the great creation of God and He loves all without any difference.

Mufti Ashiq Hussain said that as Muslim we condemn the terrorist attacks at Churches and hotels in Sri Lanka

Mufti Ashiq Hussain, Pir Akhtar Rasool and Allama Ayub Khan shared their views that as Muslims we are people of peace and our religion Islam teaches us that all human being are
respectable and our religion gives us lesson to serve the humanity. We condemn the terrorist attacks at Churches and hotels. In this pain we are with them and we pray for the Sri Lankan people. Today the majority of the Muslim leaders are present with our Christian brothers and sisters and together we are praying for world peace. We are promoting peace and interfaith harmony with Fr James Channan OP in Pakistan. But many negative forces are working to divide people and they are promoting hate, fear and intolerance among us. We are united and we are giving our message to those people and groups that they cannot divide us. Why are these terrorists attacking in Churches, Mosques and Temples?

Sr Sabina Rifat Coordinator URI Women Wing, Pakistan shared her views in poetry that we should be honest and merciful to others. It is clear that if we don't love our neighbor, then we cannot say that we love God. Every person is beautiful and wonderful creation of God. We are thankful to God for this beautiful blessing. Religions teach that we should be merciful to others.

At the end, solidarity with the victims was observed, the candle light service was also conducted with a peace Prayer for People of Sri Lanka.
Feast Celebration of St. Catharine of Siena

In the evening of 30\textsuperscript{th} April 2019, Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena organized the celebration of the feast of St. Catherine of Siena at their convent in Karachi. In the Celebration friars from the Dominican House of Studies of Karachi also participated enthusiastically. Rev Fr James Samuel OP, Superior, Rev Fr Akhtar Naveed OP Master of the Students, Rev Fr Thomas Bhatti OP, Rev Fr Naveed Joshua OP Director of Louis Hall Dominican of Formation, Multan, Rev Fr Nadeem Payre Lal OFM, Deacon Zeeshan Francisco OP, and all Dominican student brothers were also present there. Dominican Sisters Missionaries of Schools also participated in this graceful occasion.

Before the celebration of the Holy Eucharist whole community said the evening prayer. After the evening prayer Rev Fr James Samuel OP presided over the Holy Mass. Sister Sabina Channan OP gave an introduction of the Holy Mass and she also shared briefly the life of St. Catharine of Siena. The first reading was read by Bro Irfan Christ OP and the Holy Gospel was proclaimed by Deacon Zeeshan Francisco OP, Rev Fr Akhtar Naveed OP was Homilist of the Holy Mass. He touched the spiritual elements through which St. Catherine integrated with the Lord. He said, “She was a brave, courageous and bold lady who was filled with the fire of love. Mostly she spent her time in prayers”. He also said in a short life span of 33 years she did marvelous things in the history of the church which will be remembered forever. Today church remembers her services and seeks her intercession. In the end, Sister Veronica Mangal OP expressed the words of gratitude to all the guests. After the Holy Eucharist festive meal was shared by all together and this multiplied their joys.
Fr James Nuttall OP was an American Dominican missionary. He served the Christian and Hindu Tribal community of Bahawalpur for more than three decades. Fr Jim is one of the pioneers of this Tribal mission in Bahawalpur. He was a simple and humble priest. People of Bahawalpur and Yazman Mandi remember his great services.

May 2\textsuperscript{nd} was a historical day in the history of St. Dominic's Parish Bahawalpur. It was the day of inauguration and blessing of the Auditorium. The hall was built in the commemoration of legendary missionary Fr Jim Nuttall OP. It is a tribute to the dedicated services of Fr Jim.

Fr. Shahzad was MC of the Inauguration ceremony. His Excellency Bishop Benny Mario Travas (Bishop of Multan), Fr. Younas Shahzad OP (Vice Provincial), priests, sisters and lay people graced the event. Children of St. Mary's Girls High School showed their talent through a magnificent cultural folk dance.

While expressing his thoughts Bishop Benny congratulated Fr Iftikhar Moon OP for the gift of the Hall for St. Mary's Girls High School, Islami Colony. Bishop also acknowledged the untiring efforts of Fr Pascal Paulus OP (former Vice Provincial). Fr Younas Shahzad appreciated Fr Iftikhar and Fr Pascal for remembering Fr. Jim and promoting the great legacy of our forefathers.
Fr Iftikhar Moon OP Parish Priest said that it was his dream to salute Fr James and let his memories live forever among the people of Bahawalpur whom he loved so much. He also expressed the dual purpose of the hall. The hall will serve the educational needs of the children as well as the faith formation, cultural and literary activities for the people of Bahawalpur. Fr Iftikhar acknowledged the devoted services of Headmaster Munir Alam. Master Munir Alam received lifetime achievement award at this blessed occasion. The awards were also given to honor the dedicated services of Mr. Ghaffar Akhtar (project writer), Mr. Shahbaz (Architect), Engineer John Michael, Contractor Kamran Moon. Fr Iftikhar Moon OP paid gratitude to Bishop Benny and Fr Pascal Paulus OP for their special co-operation and efforts. In the end, festive dinner was served to the distinguished guests.
Mother's Day Celebration
at St. Luke’s Parish Shahdra, Lahore

On the 12th of May 2019 during the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration at Luke's Parish Shahdra the mother's day was celebrated. On this Sunday special prayer intentions were offered for mothers. During the Holy Mass beautiful reflection was given by Rev Fr Atif Anthony OP in which he highlighted the role of a mother in the family. Mother is the source of unity in the family. Mother is always ready to play the sacrificial role for the betterment of the children. He also urges the congregation to respect their mothers wholeheartedly. After the Eucharistic celebration, he garlanded the mothers of the parish and flowers were given to the mothers. Little children of Sunday School also expressed their love for them by performing the tableau. In the end, sweet was distributed among the parishioners. Fr. Atif thanked all the mothers who are serving in the church through different groups.
Mother's Day Celebration in Holy Rosary Parish Warispura Faisalabad.

On 12th of May, 2019 the celebration of Mother's Day was organized by the whole Holy Rosary Parish Warispura Faisalabad. It was planned well before. Parish Priest Rev Fr Pascal Paulus OP along with pastoral team and different groups of the parish decided to arrange special Eucharistic celebration for the mothers of the parish. Bro Emmanuel Fazal OP who was on his six months pastoral exposure played the leading role. He invited all the mothers from different areas of the parish with the help of catechists.

Dominican Sisters of Saint Catherine of Siena decorated the parish church with different flowers, panaflexes and play cards which were highlighting the mother's role in one's life. The Program started with the Eucharistic celebration at 9:00 A.M presided over by Rev Fr Pascal Paulus OP. During his homily he highlighted the role of mothers in family-making
and nation building. He further said that mothers are also source of unity, joy and peace among the families as well as in the society. Furthermore, he stressed that one day is not enough to show our love to our mothers rather whenever we get an opportunity to express our love for our parents it must be expressed.

The opportunity of expressing their gratitude to their mothers by some successful students of the parish was also given, they offered flowers and gifts. There was also a speech competition after the Holy Mass in which mother's dignity and role was highlighted.

At the end of the Eucharistic Celebration the red roses were given to 250 mothers who were gathered together from different areas of the parish. The vote of thanks was expressed by one of the mothers namely Mrs. Shaheen Anthony. After the Eucharistic Celebration sweet was distributed among all the faithful.
Pakistan Honors Rev Fr James Channan OP for Promoting Christian-Muslim Dialogue

Mr Faisal Ilyas

Father James Channan addresses the Interfaith Conference 2019 in Lahore on May 17.

A Catholic priest has been honored by the Pakistan government for his “exemplary services” to promote interfaith harmony and peace in his own country and worldwide.

Father James Channan, a Dominican who has spent 50 years following the spirituality of St Dominic, received an award at the Interfaith Conference 2019 in Lahore on May 17th that was attended by more than 300 people including Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Sikhs.

Noor-ul-Haq Qadri, Pakistan’s federal minister for religious affairs and interfaith harmony presented the award.
“Many people helped me to reach this place. I praise God, the Church, my community of Ibn-e-Mariam Vice Province of Pakistan, and all my friends,” said Father Channan.

“I especially thank my Muslim friends who always supported me and my work and kept on appreciating me to continue my mission to promote peace and harmony among the people of Pakistan.

“I am actively serving in this mission to build bridges between Christians and the people of other religions, especially with our Muslim brethren, but still I see there is an urgent need to enhance for interfaith dialogue.”

Father Channan said his work to promote peace and interfaith harmony brings him peace and mental satisfaction. “I keep on thinking about ways to bring people of various faiths together, to help them to nurture and strengthen peace among them,” he said.

“Everybody is my neighbor, and being a follower of Jesus Christ I have to love everybody it keeps me motivated and zealous. We always have to share this message that we are one human family, following different religions and faiths but living our faiths we have to promote love, unity and peace.”

Father Channan is the director of Lahore’s Peace Center which was inaugurated by the late Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, then president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

“I work to provide facility to the people of various professions and age groups to come together for dialogue, which helps to remove discrimination, fundamentalism and extremism from our society,” he said.

Father Channan also serves as a regional coordinator of United Religions Initiative (URI) in Asia. URI is serving in 109 countries including Pakistan.
“We have 63 active groups of religious leaders, lawyers, journalists, youth, women and children. Our Peace Center is always available for programs or events to promote peace, interfaith harmony, interreligious harmony and Christian-Muslim dialogue,” he said.

Father Channan, who holds a licentiate degree in Islam and Arabic studies, said he had set his aim to promote Christian-Muslim unity when he was studying theology in Karachi in 1978.

“Looking at discrimination in society, I decided that I would work to break these walls of hatred and to promote acceptance and brotherhood among people belonging to various religions, cultures and ethnic backgrounds,” he said.

Father James Channan (right) with Noor-ul-Haq Qadri, Pakistan’s federal minister for religious affairs and interfaith harmony, at the Interfaith Conference. (Photo courtesy of Father Channan)
Tribal Mission has been part of the mission of the Vice-Province of Pakistan for many years. We are uplifting the local church in Pakistan and also reaching out beyond our boundaries by working with tribal people. This is a way of evangelization and we are promoting Christian values.

**Background of Hindu Tribes**

There are numerous Hindu tribes residing in the District of Bahawalpur. Namely Marvari Tribe, Bheel Tribe, Maegwal Tribe, Bavari Tribe, and Balmiki Tribe. These tribes are existing in the area from the time of Indo-Pak. At the time of partition of India and Pakistan, many of these people migrated to India and the rest of the people decided to stay here. There is one place namely *Cholistan ki Hatti* and currently called *Yazman Mundi* Tehsil of Bahawalpur where these people are in large number. These people don't have their land that's why they are working on the lands of Muslims. The tribes of Marwari and Bheel are interested in agriculture, Maegwal are shoemakers and Bavari people are hunters whereas Balmiki are sweepers. These tribes don't have bonds of unity. They also have feelings of hatred for each other and sometimes even they don't want to shake hand with each other. Usually, they get married with the girls of their own tribe. From these tribes, many are not in favor of girls' education. There are some issues of forced conversions in these tribes. They also married their girls at an early age because of the issue of forced conversion.
Social, Political and Religious Structure of Hindu Tribes

These people of Cholistan are very different in their culture and customs. Physically they are living in the 21st century but traditionally they are far behind. They are not aware of the value of National Identity Card (NIC). Feudal of Cholistan took advantage of their innocence and made their fake NIC to get the votes in the designations. Tribal girls are abused sexually. To avoid that threat these tribal people marry their girls at an early age. Due to premature marriages, the disease of Tuberculosis is very common among their girls. They just do their treatments with their mantras (magic) and leave everything on the will of their gods. Muslim landlords have full control over their daily living. Throughout their entire lives, they have to work in their fields and they just get one part among eight parts of the total production. These people completely rely on the income of animals for their livelihood. There are some tribal people from Bhori Tribe who were hunters. They hunt the desert lizards called Sane. They break their backbone and preserve them for the summer season to use them for their meals. There is also one tribe namely Bheel Tribe which is now moving towards education and Deacon Bashir Francis OP is helping them by providing them different means.
The Missionary Role of the Dominicans in Cholistan

In Bahawalpur, Dominican Friars are playing the vital role of evangelizations and they have achieved many successes. They are bringing many people closer to the Gospel Values. They are giving them awareness of education so that they may enlighten themselves with the modern means. There is one catechist from the Marwari Tribe namely Michael Rao who received his training from the catechetical center of Khushpur and now serving in Bahawalpur Parish. Historically Fr James Nuttall OP and Fr Timothy OP worked a lot for the development of the Bavari Tribe. After them, Fr Shahzad Barkat OP and Deacon Bashir Francis OP continued their missionary work with them. They opened two small primary schools among them to educate their children. In the end, I acknowledge and appreciate the services of Deacon Bashir Francis OP who is playing an active role in promoting religious and social education among them. May God bless his apostolate and his ministerial work.
Vocation Story
of Novice Haroon Mushtaq
(St. Dominic Novitiate Warispura)

Shakespeare says, "every person in this world is a hero and has part to play."

People of every race and color have a specific role to play. A hero has the most valuable role to perform. Role is not merely to be considered as acting but to inspire others for needed action.

Being part of this world, I also consider myself a hero and precious person. The spirit of God dwells within me. He has granted me this life for a purpose to play a major part in this world. To explore my role to inspire various people such as parents, siblings, relatives, friends, society members and teachers. They all cultivated my existence and helped me to strive and find my role.

I am Haroon Mushtaq born in a Catholic family in Multan and studied at a missionary school. My parents used to take me for Sunday Masses and different events held in the church. This gave my life a chance to be closer to church and its activities. I came to know that a priest is a second Christ on this earth. Christ gave his life for others. These words were a source of motivation for me. I had an analysis of myself and intended to become a priest. After passing my matriculation exams, I gave an interview to join the Dominican fathers at Bahawalpur. Fortunately, in my parish the Dominican fathers were appointed. They gave me information and guidance about the mission and spirituality of Dominicans. I was highly impressed by their work. During my interview in Bahawalpur, I stayed there for three days and learnt more about Dominican spirituality, sacrifices and favors towards the world and mankind. These things inspired me to become a Dominican and be a light for the world. As Christ said, "You are the light of the world."
On 13th of August 2015 I came to Louis Hall Dominican House of Formation in Multan. Here I spent four years under the guidance of Fr Naveed Joshua OP and Fr Irfan Jerome OP. When I came I was nothing I was not able to speak even a single word infront of public. I didn't have enough confidence to interact, I could not think of ideas and management. But by spending four years in this house. I completed my F.A and B.A. I also enjoyed the joyful company of elder brothers. During this I have learnt to carry out my responsibilities assiduously and carefully. My rectors and my brothers nourished me. I usually say when someone asked me, how are you changed? I say to them, firstly it is by God's grace that I have been changed in my faith. Secondly my parents gave me birth and gave me the gift of faith and nourished it. The personalities of my formators gave me a new life and I have been born once more spiritually.

"Self- examination is the key to insight, which is the key to wisdom."
I learnt self-analysis by which I can remove demerits of my routine life and can make it perfect. I learnt and built the habit of reading books, articles, newspaper, religious books and more than these I have learnt; "the attitude of learning."

My formators taught me to wear good attire, to be responsible, to be humble, to be conscious, to be helpful. When I came into this life and house I was nothing, but now I have built my character. Now I am able to speak English, and to relate to people, to manage things and to overcome my desires and self-interests. These learnings will last and will be helpful for me to know myself and make it better day by day. Now I see my future safe in the hands of my rectors and my God.

Once a wise man was asked what is the meaning of life? He replied, "life itself has no meaning, life is an opportunity to create meaning." I thank God for this opportunity to explore my vocation, for growing as a human person as follower of Jesus Christ. I am happy with my vocation and I pray that more young boys may get inspiration like me and become Friar Preachers.
Ever year the annual Marian Convention is organized in the month of May. This year's annual Marian Convention was held on 25th and 26th of May. On the first day of Marian Convention Rev Fr Younas Shahzad OP Prior Vice Provincial of Ibn-e-Mariam Vice-Province Pakistan, was warmly welcomed by the faithful with flowers and garlands. In this spiritual gathering Fr Patrick Peter OP, Fr Imtiaz Nishan, Fr Fasial Pervaiz were also present. First of all Rev Fr Younas OP blessed the grotto of Mother Mary. St. Jean Bible Study Group's students also presented a beautiful tableau of Mother Mary. The family of Mr. Khush Bakhat Ishfaq offered the crown of Mother Mary by representing the entire community.
Right after the coronation of Mother Mary the celebration of the Holy Eucharist was started. Holy Mass was presided over by very Rev Fr Younas Shahzad OP. He very nicely explained the role of Mary in the plan of salvation. The theme of this Marian Convention was “Mother Mary and Dialogue in the family life”. In his homily he said, now we are too much engaged in the worldly things even we don't have proper time for our own families and siblings. We are not giving appropriate time to the family that's why family problems are increasing rapidly. The best way to strengthen our relationships with each other is to promote the culture of dialogue.

Fr Younas Shahzad OP presiding over Holy Mass on annual Marian Convention

The choir of Baddo Centre also sung spiritual Marian hymns to make the atmosphere more elegant. The role of master of the ceremony was played by Babu Mushtaq and Babu Amir. In the end, the words of gratitude were expressed by Rev Fr Atif Anthony OP. He thanked all those who made that day beautiful in honor of Mother Mary.
On the second day of this Marian Convention the Holy Mass was presided by the Rev. Fr. Francis Gulzar Vicar General of the Archdiocese Lahore and Rev Fr Akeel Ashiq OFM Cap from St. Luke's Parish was also there. Rev Fr Francis Gulzar gave very meaningful homily and explained the role of Mother Mary in our lives. He shared the role of Mother Mary as a humble and obedient servant of our Lord God. He said Mother Mary is the best model for our faith formation, family and society. On the second day the choir of Wandala Diyal station offered nice hymns in the honor of Mother Mary. Babu Shahbaz Anjam and Babu Qamar Yousaf played the role of MC In the end, Parish Priest Rev Fr Atif thanked all the contributors and benefactors who made this occasion possible for all the parishioners.