

Behind the Scenes



By Fr. Martin de Porres Walsh, O.P.

Dear Mission Friends:

For the past forty-four years, in each monthly issue of MISSIONARIES IN ACTION, we have shared with you accounts of our Dominican friars and sisters as they carry out ministries across the globe. We have introduced you to and kept you updated on our missions – those in Mexico, including Chiapas, Mexicali, and Ciudad Juarez; Rabinal, Guatemala; Vilnius, Lithuania; Kisumu and Nairobi in Kenya; and the Tala leper colony in the Philippines. In this issue we would like to introduce you to all of us here at the mission office, as well as announce a major change in staff.

For twenty-one years until his death in 1995, Fr. Joseph

Asturias served as the beloved director of the Dominican Mission Foundation. All of us associated with the foundation were always reminding Father that the wisest decision he ever made was hiring Nancy Keating in 1988, a young college student at the time, to be his secretary. Nancy, who married Paul Loscavio in 1992, has carried on Father Asturias' spirit for twenty years, coordinating the office's daily activities and guiding it into the 21st century, as well as getting to know many of you and being available to answer your questions.

In October 2006 I had the privilege of baptizing Paul and Nancy's second child Augustus. With their daughter Olivia, six, and "Augie," now almost two, Nancy has decided that she would like to spend more time at home, and so will be working only part-time beginning in June.

For the past few months, Nancy has been training the newest member of our mission team, Lesley (Tofaneli) Warnshuis, who will become our new full-time office manager, and I'd like to introduce you to her.



Lesley, our newest addition

Lesley was born and raised in Vallejo, California, attending St. Basil Elementary School and St. Vincent Ferrer High School (my alma mater as well!) After graduating from University of the Pacific, with a major in English as well as a Secondary Teaching Credential, she was hired for her first teaching position by her "old" high school principal, Sister Karen Marie, O.P., to join her staff at San Domenico Upper School in San Anselmo. Lesley taught English, Spanish, and ESL at San Domenico for three years, followed by positions at Carondelet High School in Concord as well as our beloved St. Vincent's.

In 1977 I had the privilege of celebrating the nuptial Mass for Lesley and Chris, who also graduated from St. Vincent's (as well as St. Mary's College in Moraga). Lesley put teaching on hold when she and Chris opened City Lights Café and Catering in 1985, a business they still own and operate. She never stopped feeding her love of teaching and language arts, though, through positions as a long-term substitute teacher, a tutor, and an online book critic and copy editor. Currently she is editing the writing of her husband Chris who, besides being City Lights' chief cook and bottle-washer (literally!), is an aspiring novelist.

Chris and Lesley have three daughters, all of whom attended St. Basil's and St. Patrick-St. Vincent High School. Emily, 28, teaches junior high language arts and religion at St. Basil's; JoAnna, 26, is a teaching assistant at St. Basil's as well as a certified massage therapist; and Alice, 21, is attending college in San Diego.

This past January I was honored to celebrate, with Fr. Vincent Lopez and Fr. Felix Cassidy at my side, the nuptial Mass for Emily (who was baptized by Fr. Lopez) and Frank Candela, whom Emily met while both were attending USC.

Being deeply rooted in the Dominican tradition, Lesley feels right at home in her new position. She has long known many of our friars and sisters, as well as many of you, and



Lesley with husband Chris and, from left, daughters Allie, Joey and Emily, and new son-in-law Frankie, at St. Dominic's in San Francisco.

looks forward to meeting many more. While we will all miss Nancy's daily presence, we are delighted to welcome Lesley and look forward to a smooth transition.



Nancy holding newly-baptized Augie, with Fr. Martin, Paul, and Olivia, at St. Dominic's in San Francisco, in 2006.

Paul Loscavio will be working part-time writing grant requests to foundations for specific mission projects. The school at the

Tala leper colony, built in the 50's and succumbing to the tropical climate of the Philippines, is just one example of the desperately needed improvements that can benefit greatly from Paul's efforts.

Betty Carley has come in to the office every Thursday since 1995 to help with organizing our monthly newsletter mailings, recording address changes, and mailing Mass cards. She also allows for Nancy, and now Lesley, to take time off by being able to hold down the fort in their absence.



Betty on duty.

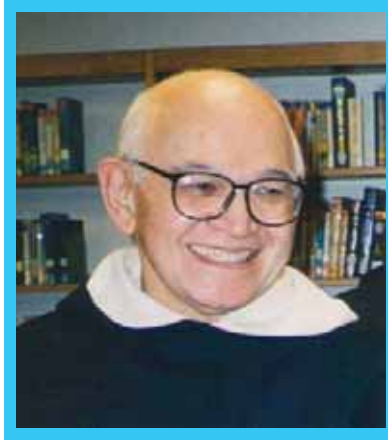
We are blessed by Betty's cheerful presence and her enduring commitment to the mission foundation.

We are also fortunate to be able to count on the continued hard work and dependability of our long-time volunteer Bob Morrison. Bob has spent countless hours a week for over twenty years arranging and affixing the address labels for the newsletter, stuffing each envelope that you receive, and sorting and boxing them for mailing.



Bob working away.

I also consider Father Vincent Lopez, O.P., to be a vital member of our team. Each year we send a request to the office of the Propagation of the Faith of each diocese within the region of our Western Dominican Province, asking for opportunities to preach mission appeals at their churches. Since the numerous assignments we are granted usually fall within the summer months and there is necessarily "double-booking," Father Lopez shares the bulk of the preaching assignments with me, and we are all very grateful



Fr. Lopez spreading his cheer.

to him. After fifty-two years of priesthood spent mostly in high school ministry, Fr. Lopez says he considers it a distinct honor and privilege to be assigned to preach mission appeals. He always looks forward to sharing the stories of our extraordinary missionaries, many of whom he has known and seen in action over the past seventy years. He believes that men such as Fr. Leo Hofstee, Fr. Kieran Healy, Fr. Vincent Foerstler, Br. Raymond Bertheaux, Br. Pasqual Manalio, Fr. Timothy Conlan, Fr. Joseph Asturias, Fr. Aquinas Duffner, and Fr. David Bello, are indeed heroes, dedicated to finding the image of the Crucified and Risen Jesus in the poorest of the poor. Fr. Lopez prays that "the Word of God may touch the hearts and souls of God's people in the pews as they listen to the words of this preacher."

As a team, we here in the office are delighted to be able to serve all of you, our mission friends, by sharing with you the news of our Dominican missionaries. It

is through your loving support that all of us, those here in the office and those out in the missions, are able to carry out Jesus' last words to us in this world:

"Go out to the whole world and proclaim the good news to the ends of the earth." (Mark 16:16)

MISSION APPEALS

We have been invited to speak on our missionary work at the following parishes. If you are in the area, please come out and meet our Dominican preachers at the weekend Masses.

June 14/15

Sacred Heart Church
Exeter, California

Preaching: Fr. Martin Walsh

June 21/22

St. Thomas More Parish
San Francisco, California

Preaching: Fr. Martin Walsh

July 5/6

Our Lady of the Rosary Church
Paramount, California

*Preaching: Fr. Martin Walsh &
Fr. Vincent Lopez*

July 5/6 and July 12/13

Sacred Heart Church
Battle Ground, Washington

Preaching: Fr. Antoninus Wall

Prayer for Summer Travelers

O Almighty and merciful God, who hast commissioned Thy angels to guide and protect us, command them to be our assiduous companions from our setting out until our return; to clothe us with their invisible protection; to keep from us all danger of collision, of fire, of explosion, of fall and bruises; and finally, having preserved us from all evil, and especially from sin, to guide us to our heavenly home, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Jesus and Mary, we pray,
Be with us ever on our way.***



Prayer to St. Martin de Porres

I turn to you in my sorrow and anxiety to seek your friendly protection. Please intercede for me with our merciful Father in heaven so that I may be truly sorry for all my sins and be freed from the evils that shackle me. Ask that I might have something of your spirit of love and self-sacrifice, and so be at all times reconciled to God's holy will. Oh heavenly Father, in the name of your Son and of His blessed Mother, and by the merits of your faithful servant Martin, help me in my trouble and do not forsake me. Amen.



*If you would like to remember our missionary work
in your will, our legal title is:*

***Province of the Holy Name, Inc.
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