

Words and Deeds



Dear Mission Friends:

Over seven hundred years ago, St. Thomas Aquinas, our Dominican philosopher and theologian, wrote that gratitude *“involves giving thanks to benefactors and should be expressed in words and deeds according to circumstances and opportunity.”* It is my hope that the “words” in this newsletter adequately express to all of you, our benefactors (which is from Latin for *“those who do good”*), the appreciation that we all have for the good deeds you do. Our “deeds” of gratitude are the Masses and prayers that we offer for you on a continuous basis. All of us—those on our office staff whom you met in the June issue, as well as all of our missionaries you are kept apprised of each month—realize that it is only through your generous and selfless

contributions that the Gospel is preached in so many corners of the world, creating a more just society among the poor and forgotten, which has been our resolve from our inception.

In September 1772, twenty-six Dominican friars set sail to cross the Gulf of California from San Blas, Mexico toward the peninsula of Baja California in order to take over the

administration of twenty-one Jesuit-founded (and one Franciscan-founded) missions. While some of the Dominicans died on the journey because of rotting food, and others because of a storm and ensuing shipwreck, the few who did eventually arrive were welcomed by a group of Father Junipero Serra’s Franciscans at the mission of Loreto, which to this day is known as *“the*

The front page of El Vigia newspaper showing Ensenada’s municipal president, Pablo Alejo Lopez, center, with benefactor Dr. Jorge Saenz Flores, Fr. Arias, Fr. Walsh, and artist Luis Torreblanca, at the ribbon-cutting ceremony dedicating the monument (background) in honor of the Dominican missionaries of Baja California.



■ El artista Luis Torreblanca inauguró este jueves una escultura en los patios del Riviera del Pacifico en homenaje a los Forjadores de Ensenada, los misioneros Dominicanos. En el corte de listón participaron el alcalde Pablo Alejo López y homenajeados.



Mission San Vicente Ferrer as it appeared after being dedicated in 1780 by Fr. Michael Hidalgo, O.P. and Fr. Joaquin Valero, O.P. It was here that Fr. Luis Sales, O.P. founded the first orphanage in Baja California.

mother and head of all the missions of Baja and Alta California.” The Franciscans turned over the entire Baja peninsula to the Dominicans so that they could continue on with their work founding missions to the north, throughout present-day California.

After successfully putting these “inherited” missions in order, the Dominicans went on to found a chain of their own missions in Alta California, within the present-day Municipality of Ensenada. Recently the civic officials of Ensenada, including its president, Pablo Alejo Lopez, along with prominent citizen and benefactor Dr. Jorge Saenz Flores, decided to give formal acknowledgement, “in words and deeds,” to the 18th and 19th century Dominican missionaries who evangelized the region and laid the foundations for what is today a thriving municipality.

They commissioned Luis Torreblanca, a well-known artist, and Carlos Lazcano Sanagun, editor of the local newspaper *El Vigia*, and area historian, to create a sculpture in honor of the Dominican legacy. On May 15, Father Gerardo Arias, O.P., of the Mexican Dominican province, and I had the privilege of participating in the lovely ceremony dedicating this unique monument, which highlights symbols of our order as well as of Baja California. If



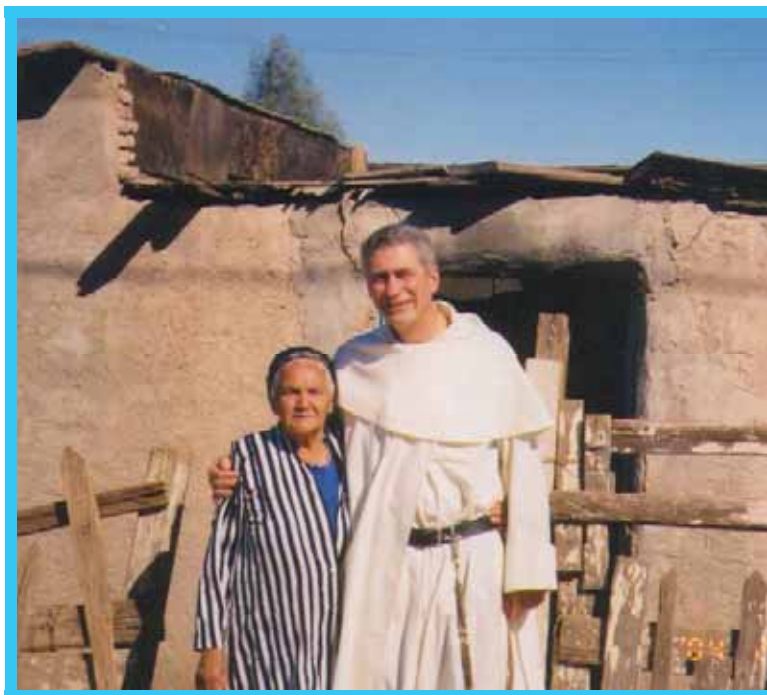
The sculpture, with symbols representing the Dominican Order and Baja California, located in the Mission History Garden of Ensenada's Riviera Cultural Center.

you ever have the opportunity to visit Ensenada, do go see it in the Mission History Garden inside the newly-restored Riviera Cultural Center near the waterfront, and contemplate the work of our missionaries over two centuries ago--and the citizens' gratitude--that it represents.



The present-day ruins of Mission San Vicente Ferrer, which are within the boundaries of the municipality of Ensenada, just north of the town of San Vicente.

Finally, as you may recall, in the April newsletter we asked for your prayers, through the intercession of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, for our beloved Mexicali missionary, Fr. Tom Kraft, O.P., who had been diagnosed with cancer in the lower esophagus, upper stomach, and liver. Thanks to your prayers and Blessed Teresa's intercession, Fr. Tom regained sufficient strength to travel to New York to take part in Mass with Pope Benedict XVI. Following is a letter from Fr. Tom expressing his gratitude to you. We have also included the prayer to Blessed Teresa and ask for your continued prayers for Father.



Fr. Tom with Teofila, an elderly lady whom he ministered in Mexicali.

In Christ's Peace,

Fr. Martin de Porres Walsh, O.P.

Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers, which are supporting and healing me. The results of my last CT scan show that the tumor in the liver is diminishing and, while the cancer in the esophagus is more difficult to measure, the doctor feels sure that it too is shrinking. He said that my body is receiving the treatments well also. I am elated!

I am blessed with some of the best medical personnel in the U.S. and I thank God for that. I am also blessed with you and your prayers. Medicine can take me only so far. Even the doctor said that I am doing "unusually well," words that he would not normally use. I am convinced that your prayers, especially those said through Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, have been and will continue to be effective. I thank God for your love and support with all my being.

Father Tom Kraft, O.P.

Prayer For Canonization of Mother Teresa

Jesus, you made Blessed Teresa of Calcutta an inspiring example of firm faith and burning charity, an extraordinary witness to the way of spiritual childhood, and a great and esteemed teacher of the value and dignity of every human life. Grant that she may be venerated and imitated as one of the Church's canonized saints. Hear the requests of all those who seek her intercession, especially the petition I now implore: the healing of Fr. Tom Kraft, O.P.

May we follow her example in heeding Your cry of thirst from the Cross and joyfully loving You in the distressing disguise of the poorest of the poor, especially those most unloved and unwanted.

We ask this in Your name and through the intercession of Mary, Your Mother and the Mother of us all. Amen.

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

August 2/3

All Souls Church, Alhambra, California; *Preaching: Fr. Paul Scanlon*

August 9/10

**Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, San Francisco, California;
*Preaching: Fr. Martin Walsh***

August 16/17

Sacred Heart Church, Lindsay, California; *Preaching: Fr. David Orique*

**Blessed Sacrament Church, Los Angeles, California;
*Preaching: Fr. Vincent Lopez and Fr. Martin Walsh***

St. Catherine of Siena Church, Veneta, Oregon; *Preaching: Fr. Antoninus Wall*

August 22/23

**St. Mary, Our Lady of the Dunes Church, Florence, Oregon, and
St. John the Apostle Church, Reedsport, Oregon; *Preaching: Fr. Antoninus Wall***

**St. Anne Church and Holy Cross Church, Porterville, California;
*Preaching: Fr. Vincent Lopez and Fr. Martin Walsh***

September 20/21

St. Francis de Sales Church, Riverside, California; *Preaching: Fr. Martin Walsh*