

Pastor's Corner - June 19 & 26

In the last two weeks, from West to East, many “Canadians” showed pride in supporting the Vancouver Canucks’s hockey team. It’s the same for the Friar Preachers in Canada, better known as Dominicans; we are proud to support our community in British Columbia. In the Order of Preachers (O.P.), each Friar is a member of a local community, mine is in Montréal and Fr. Rolf’s is in Vancouver. Three Friars live in St. Mary’s Community; Fr. Pierre Leblond, pastor of St. Mary’s Parish; Fr. Gabriel de Chadarévian, half-time Assistant Pastor of St. Mary’s Parish and half-time Chaplain and Theology professor at Redeemer Pacific College; and Fr. Claude Noël, preaching parish missions and helping pastors in the Diocese of Vancouver. Our first Dominican vocation is Fr. Mark Hoo, who made religious profession in 1997, studied at the Dominican University College in Ottawa, and was ordained in 2004; he is now working in Ottawa toward his Ph.D, after ministering in Vancouver for a few years.

After the Sunday Masses on June 26th, I will take the ferry to join my Dominican brothers in Vancouver. In July and August I will do summer ministry at St. Mary’s Parish, close to Joyce Skytrain station. In 2010, St. Mary’s had a 3% increase in parishioners. Each Sunday 4,500 people come to worship at one of the seven Masses. 700 people can sit in the church and, at two Masses, 100 people listen to the liturgy with loudspeakers outside. Annually 3,000 people are welcomed by a priest for their confession. Every 3 weeks is a Baptism celebration for 25 babies. 85% of the parishioners are Filipinos and the others are mostly Caucasians. Two years ago, my first time in St. Mary’s, there were 46 different parochial groups, ministering to all fields of the Christian life, including street ministry.

In 2016, the Friar Preachers will celebrate worldwide the 800th anniversary of the approbation of the O.P. The St. Dominic’s Canadian Province began in 1873 in Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec. Our mission in Japan began in 1928 and our mission in Rwanda and in Burundi in 1960.

Sincere thanks for including your Dominican cooperators brothers and priests in your prayers.

Fraternally yours,



Henri de Longchamp, o.p.,
de l'Ordre des Frères Prêcheurs

I suggest you watch this 8 minute video: www.wimp.com/greatchallenges/