



DOMINICAN LAITY

Newsletter #32

August 2014

In the last month, amongst other things in a somewhat busy domestic life, I have been asked to participate in a restorative justice meeting as friend of the one blamed; I have been “staying over” so as to be a buddy to a man with brain injury while care givers are in hospital; I attended my first e-conference with other parishioners; and met with a team regularly to explore “the how, what, and when of church today” for adult faith formation. Despite various forms of social media I remain happiest listening, and being, face-to-face. I love that Dominican life encourages us to “be with”, and “talk to” and “reflect on”. However we communicate - with or without words, signing, writing or by illustrating – we are called to compassion, truth, justice, mercy, forgiveness, and friendship. A big thank you to all contributors who have woven their articles around such virtues in this issue.

As promised we are gathering ideas for Jubilee next year please continue the dialogue so we can have some ownership of the celebration. Send us your thoughts.

By now you will have received registration forms for November’s retreat in Auckland by email – please encourage **Teresa McNamara** and the team by getting your registrations in early. **Susan Healy** gives us notice of an October *hui* in Auckland and asks us for prayers for its success. Make sure to mark your calendars with dates for the visit by **Margaret Mayce OP** in September.

With our theme “communication” it is so appropriate that we feature the 70th anniversary celebrations at St Dominic’s School for the Deaf, Feilding and Island Bay. **Maureen O’Hanlon OP** has provided us with a record of proceedings and **David Loving-Molloy** with his homily from that occasion. I believe you will find both articles moving and the future directions of the deaf community exciting.

The Dominican conference, Indonesia, 11- 16 August, “Dialogue as a way of peace” is brought to our attention: please pray for those New Zealanders taking part – **Fr Luke, Jaqui Ryan and Susan Healy**

Sr Margaret Butler OP gets to the heart of building community in her poem – enjoy! I know you will also enjoy **Judith Robinson OP’s** “Autumn at Korimako”. How lovely for us to vicariously follow the seasons “down on the farm”!

We finish our August newsletter with a tribute to St Dominic and the gift of the rosary.

And so to begin with a most deserved accolade to **Kay Blackburn** on her new appointment as National President of the Catholic Women’s League. Well done and God bless you Kay from all of your Dominican family!

- **Michele Ness**

Congratulations to Kay Blackburn

Kay, who is one of the producers of our newsletter, has just been elected as National President of the Catholic Women’s League. Kay is a proud Dominican and will bring her Dominican commitment to her new role. Kay was asked to write up a CV when her nomination went forward and here are some facts from it:

Kay is wife of Greg, mother of 4, grandmother of 7. She spent most of her childhood in Milton, Otago, before her family moved to Invercargill. Educated in Dominican Schools, she went on to Dunedin Teacher's College to train as a teacher. She then added one more year of study to graduate as a Teacher of the Deaf. Kay has taught in Catholic schools and schools for the deaf, in New Zealand and Australia.

Besides her commitment to the Catholic Women's League, Kay is involved in the Parish of Our Lady of Kapiti as a Eucharistic minister, scripture group participant and member of the Peace and Justice group and the Adult Faith Formation Team. In the local community she is a member of the Kapiti Older Person Council.

In the final paragraph of her CV, Kay wrote: "My early contact with the Dominican Order as my educators has led to my involvement in the 'Dominican Family' and my appreciation of the Dominican Charism. This influences my willingness to accept this nomination and be fully involved in the future of CWLNZ".

Kay we wish you all the best and appreciate you are following in the footsteps of your sister, Tui, who was CWLNZ National President from 2006 to 2010.

- Susan Healy

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
ISLAND BAY 1944 – 1953
FEILDING 1953 – 2014

In July 1978 a reunion was held to commemorate 25 years of St Dominic's School for the Deaf in Feilding. Cardinal Reginald Delargey was the celebrant at Mass and preached a very inspiring homily in which he invited the Deaf people to 'be apostles' to their Deaf friends and neighbours. He told them they alone understood what it is to be Deaf and to love God as a Deaf person.

I remembered this call to the Deaf Community as we gathered for Eucharist on Saturday morning May 31, the feast of the Visitation of Mary. This was the beginning of a very memorable and joyful day in the history of St Dominic's. It was during the celebration of the Eucharist, I realised that now the Deaf people have stepped forward and are taking the lead in what they want, particularly at the celebration of the Eucharist, other liturgical functions and the religious studies some of them have undertaken.

Father Brian Walsh, who was part-time chaplain to the Deaf during the early 80's and Bishop Charles Drennan were the celebrants. An interpreter signed the prayers and some parts of the Mass, while David Loving-Molloy stood beside the priest at the altar to sign the Preface and Eucharistic Prayer. Readings and Prayers of the Faithful were all signed by Deaf people and voiced by the interpreter. David preached the homily in which he linked the events outlined in the Gospel story of the Visitation to St Dominic's. Other highlights were, six 'Sign Singers' signing the songs, 'Walk in the Light' and 'All Over the World'. At first, I thought we were going to sing the songs while the songs were signed, but our voices weren't required as the words were voiced over by the interpreter while the 'Sign Singers' used very graceful signs. After Communion, a group moved around the Church in silence waving beautiful coloured banners. With hearing people we probably would have had singing or music, but that wasn't necessary. The only sound to be heard was the swishing of the banners. It was so moving to see those carrying the banners looking so joyful and proud of being part of the celebration.

After Mass we went to the Diocesan Centre for a cuppa and to view some old photos on power-point. Bishop Charles joined us and I noticed how he moved with ease among the Deaf people as he passed around plates of biscuits. It was probably his first time to be in a room full of Deaf People! There were more than 120 present - obviously enjoying meeting up with friends they may not have seen for years.

We made a trip to St Dominic's in the afternoon. Big changes have taken place there and renovations are on-going. This is very necessary as they are catering for forty adults – more men than women. The women are housed in the old 'Convent' and the men are housed in the dormitory block. Eventually, the dormitory block will be pulled down and a new accommodation block will be built where the tennis courts are at present. The classrooms (many of you may remember them) are in the process of being renovated into apartments. In each apartment, there is quite good

sized lounge with a bedroom partitioned off. The big walk-in cupboards are en-suites and there is a kitchen bench where people can make a cuppa etc. The chapel is used as a games room, but the kitchen and dining room look very much the same.

As a number of pastoral workers, chaplains, and interpreters were attending the Jubilee, we took the opportunity for this group to meet on Sunday to look at the present situation of Catholic Deaf ministry nationally. Of the fourteen people who attended the meeting, seven of them represented the Deaf Community. At present, David Loving-Molloy is working on translating the Mass into New Zealand Sign Language - a mammoth task! Some of you may have read about this in the New Zealand Catholic. David hopes to have the signed Mass on DVD to present at the Bishops' Conference in November. I know David is very concerned about this, so please keep this venture in your prayers.

As I reflected on the weekend, I was quite moved at the thought that we are now experiencing the fruits of 70 years commitment by the Congregation to the Ministry to the Deaf

- Sr Maureen O'Hanlon OP

Homily given by David Loving- Molloy at the St. Dominic's 70th Anniversary Mass 31st May 2014

There are a couple of points in today's gospel which we can link to our celebration today of the 70th Jubilee Reunion for St. Dominic's ex-pupils, teachers, parents and friends. The gospel story is about Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth. One of the striking things about Jesus and his message (teaching), was that he was born into a pretty ordinary (what we would call working class) family. So normal was his family background and town of upbringing, that the Church leaders couldn't believe that anything good could come from that place!

When you look at some of the first pupils that went to St. Dominic's in Island Bay in 1944, most came from pretty normal backgrounds and also from far flung places like Invercargill! I was born in Invercargill too and it seemed a pretty ordinary place to me. Often the communities in these places were close knit and in the past, at least in my upbringing in Invercargill, there was a lot of neighbourhood support and sharing of news. So once Mary finds out she is pregnant, and begins to cope with the shock of it, what does she do? She doesn't moan about it, but rather she wants to share the news and takes a trip to see her cousin Elizabeth who is also pregnant.

Now the second interesting thing about this story is that John the Baptist somehow recognized Jesus without even seeing him! Of course both were in their mother's womb. But here we have the situation of someone meeting Jesus, or recognising Jesus' being there, but not actually seeing him. You could say that for Deaf people, it is a similar experience. We rely on our eyes to see Jesus working in our lives but we don't hear him through the voices of others. This is very forcefully illustrated in the title of our History book: 'We See What You Mean'. For us the important thing is not so much words, but ACTIONS. People can talk all they like about what they believe, but for Deaf people it is mostly about seeing what people DO that is the important thing.

St. Dominic's was a place where many of us met Jesus through our experiences there. Firstly in Island Bay and then in Feilding, no-one could say that those two places were flash! The two bigger schools of Sumner and Kelston were in the big cities, but St. Dominic's was firmly planted in the land (particularly at Feilding). In fact in 1953 when it re-opened in Feilding the pupils first classes were in a barn! Like Jesus in Nazareth, St. Dominic's was rooted in humble beginnings and has stayed true to those roots right to the present. Surrounded by farms and country communities, St. Dominic's enjoyed many wonderful experiences of farm life, animals, hospitality, galas, and people looking after each other, welcoming children, Sisters, and staff from St. Dominic's into their homes, schools, and communities.

The children over the years experienced the patient, caring and strong commitment of the Dominican Sisters, so important in getting maximum benefit from their learning opportunities for the future. Education is never easy for any Deaf child and we can say that through all the struggles, what is most important is a lot of love. This is what the Dominicans brought to their life work with the Deaf and what we Deaf bring to our own work and lives. For if there is one thing we could summarize as Jesus' teaching and example, then that would be the love with which he treated all those he met. It didn't matter where they came from.

Jesus' mother Mary responded to God's love through her cousin Elizabeth in a humble way. In her great prayer of thanking God, Mary describes herself as a HUMILIATED SERVANT. She was in the difficult position of being engaged to Joseph and carrying a child that wasn't his. We might think Jesus' parents had an easy time. But that was not true. Mary and Joseph and Jesus had their struggles just like us. And what is important for us to realise is that we can still meet Jesus and experience his love in our normal day to day lives, even though we don't actually see him or hear him. It will be through all those simple opportunities, much the same as those experienced through the years at St. Dominic's - meeting interesting people and learning and experiencing their hospitality and kindness - that is where we will meet Jesus and hopefully then I will be able to pass on a bit of the love that I have received from others.

Today's Mass and Jubilee celebration is an opportunity for each of us to experience the simple gift of hospitality and love – the same as Mary experienced during her visit to Elizabeth – that thank God for the many wonderful people who have shaped our lives through St. Dominic's.

David Loving-Molloy is Chaplain to the Catholic Deaf Community in Palmerston North and Wellington

Sharing from the Dominican Family Mission and Justice Committee June 2014 Meeting

The Dominican Family Mission and Justice Committee gather three times a year representing the different branches of the Dominican Family in Aotearoa New Zealand: Helen Bergin and Judith Robinson (representing the Sisters), Chris Loughnan (representing the Friars) and Norman Gray and Teresa McNamara (representing the Laity).

We gather on Friday evening to share news of what has happened since our last meeting. Just some of the news shared at our June meeting included: a recent gathering of Aucklanders to give input to the *Tui Motu* team, a Māori Spirituality day and a meeting about inequality at the Peace Place in Auckland. Judith shared about a new prayer garden at St Patrick's School and monthly pot luck dinner and discussion gatherings of the Dominican Family at Korimako. We finish the Friday evening by setting an agenda for the Saturday meeting.

At our June meeting we shared news of what is planned for the future:

Fr Luke Rawling, Jacqui Ryan Susan Healy are attending the Dominican Justice and Peace Conference in Indonesia in August.

The Sisters are preparing for their Chapter Meeting in September.

The visit of Margaret Mayce and Anne Lythgoe in September.

The laity meeting planned for Auckland in November.

We discussed issues:

- **Child Poverty:** Helen had recently attended a panel discussion about Child Poverty in NZ where a new book "Child Poverty in New Zealand" by Jonathan Boston and Simon Chapple was available. Panel members were Jonathan Boston, Damon Salesa, Susan St John and Russell Wills. The panel stressed that if New Zealanders do not take proper care of the children and families *now* the nation will see disastrous repercussions in thirty years' time – a suffering and resentful underbelly.
- **Concern for exploited earth and concern for marginalised and exploited people:** We heard excerpts from an article by Donald Dorr (<http://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/%E2%80%98fragile-world%E2%80%99-church-teaching-ecology-and-pope-francis>). We would recommend this article for groups to meet and discuss. A website we looked at was: www.pachamama.org (who work to empower indigenous people of the Amazon rainforest to preserve their lands and culture) and a resource we heard about was God's Earth (<http://www.catholicjusticeauckland.org.nz>) which is available for easy use with small groups. We set ourselves the goal of each sharing about one or two ecological projects/initiatives/resources that inspire each of us at our next meeting.

It would be fair to say that we continue to discern the purpose and work of this group but one thing for sure is that we see sharing news between the branches of the Dominican Family as a priority. We are forward focused starting to discuss possibilities for recognising the Jubilee of the Foundation of the Order of Preachers in 2016.

Our next meeting is planned for 19 and 20 September, 2014. We are always pleased to receive your news and hear your ideas for how we can live out mission and justice.

Dialogue as a way of Peace

A Dominican conference examining the role of interreligious dialogue in a world rife with fundamentalism and violence and also cooperation and mutuality, Surabaya, Indonesia, 11-16 August, 2014

Three of our Dominican family will be attending this conference: **Fr Luke, Sr Jacqui Ryan, Susan Healy**. The conference will bring together two Dominican groups: *Journées Romaines Dominicaines* (JRD), a gathering of Dominican women and men living in Muslim countries or working with Muslim communities elsewhere; and *Justice, Peace and Care of Creation* (JPCC) a quadrennial conference of the Promoters of Justice and Peace of the Asia-Pacific Region.

Luke helped to establish the *Justice, Peace and Care of Creation* conference, which first met in Hong Kong. Jacqui is a foundation member of the Auckland Catholic diocesan Committee for Ecumenical and Inter-faith Relations, which started in 2006. She was chair of the Committee from 2012-2013. Susan will be making a short presentation at the conference on what might be needed for true inter-faith dialogue with indigenous peoples.

If you are involved with inter-faith dialogue, Susan would love to hear what you and your group are doing; those at Conference will be interested to know what is happening in Aotearoa New Zealand. Susan's email is healy92@gmail.com.

COMMUNICATION

An old group gathered yesterday.
We know one another fairly well.
We know what each will bring for lunch.
We sometimes think we know the other's thoughts.

We could have communicated by sharing ideas.
We could have theorised and philosophised.
We could have been deeply intellectual people.
Instead we told stories.

Yesterday we were blessed.
New people joined our group.
Each was known by some of us,
but we had never all been together before.

We heard stories from different countries,
and from different decades,
stories of the spark of Dominic
and how each heart had been touched.

Each had a passion for Dominic,
each had a different story
and a different journey
to colour expectations for the day.

Together we were encouraged.
Together we noticed links and connections.
Together we were invigorated.
Together we communicated.

Margaret Butler OP 2014

"The people with the best sense of what is essential to a community, of what gives and maintains its spirit, are often doing very humble, manual tasks. It is often the poorest person - the one who has a handicap or who is ill or old - who is the most prophetic. People who carry responsibility must be close to them and know what they think, because it is often they who are free enough to see with the greatest clarity the needs, beauty and pain of the community."

Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*, p. 262

AUTUMN AT KORIMAKO 2014

In 2013 Korimako hosted visits from the Dominican Schools of St Theresa, St Patrick and St Thomas Aquinas. St Patrick's School classes were searching for ideas to establish a prayer garden in their school grounds. After moving reflectively around the Korimako Peace Garden we then took them around the back paddock which we name the Marinonga (harmony) Sanctuary which is a work in progress. There was much discussion on the necessary ingredients for a prayerful place and atmosphere inclusive of the beauties of nature in all its

connectedness. It was great to attend the opening Church and Maori blessings of the schools beautifully planned and shaped Prayer Garden which was followed by a delicious hangi.



2013/14 spring and summer has seen the most prolific growth. We are now having to prune and cut back huge branches otherwise we will have a jungle! The gathering leaves are being spread around the compost bins and areas around the several gardens for rich mulch. Bags of pine needles have been given to place on the garden pathways.

The young apple trees were heavy with fruit so much so that one branch broke with the weight of its 85 apples. Many apples were stewed, then frozen and buckets of apples were given away. The pear trees produced the most delicious big pears and the crabapple trees caused the making of crabapple jelly...a first here. The fruit of one tree was gifted to the birds to devour.



At the end of March we were given six silky bantams. Within a few weeks one had died and four were clucky so now we have eleven delightful bantam chickens wandering around the paddocks. They refuse to use any sheds and persist in sleeping at night in the trees. They make great little tractors as they scratch around under the trees and pathways in the garden. Woe betide them if they start eating any garden produce though!

Our organic eggs are sold which is a great help in contributing to the upkeep of wheat and the necessary maintenance of the henhouse. The laying older hens are in the yard and henhouse in the sanctuary (back paddock) and four of the younger layers are in the mobile henhouse in the side paddock being free range from lunch onwards! They are also learning to tolerate the newly arrived bantams.



Five of the last year's lambs and the young ram were sold which has reduced the flock to thirteen. As more ground has been taken up for trees and gardens there is less pasture for a larger flock.

This week we will be welcoming a St Peter's College group to the marae and we have been asked to share its history and the Catholic history of Invercargill after which I will lead them around the Basilica giving its history. It is so good to be able to share some of our Dominican history (with the first convent in the south being on the same complex as well).

A small Dominican family group has begun to meet at Korimako once a month to our delight. Some of them came one Saturday and worked for three hours in the sanctuary weeding, digging and mulching as we cleared the garden ready to let it lie for the winter.

Autumn blessings to all

Judith Robinson op

Hui: Being True to the Gospel & Honouring the Treaty
listening together, working together

When? Saturday 4 October 2014, opening with powhiri

What? Guest speakers and group discussion on the topic

Where? Ngā Kete Wānanga Marae

Manukau Institute of Technology, Auckland

Who? Christians of all denominations

Susan Healy, a member of our Dominican family, is part of an ecumenical committee preparing for this hui.

It is timed to fit in with the commemoration of 200 years of the Gospel coming to Aotearoa New Zealand, and with 2015 being 175 years since the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. The advance notice states: "Christians were closely involved in the events around the Treaty signing and have, therefore, a special role of guardianship for the Treaty relationship. The hui is an opportunity for Christians to consider together what honouring the Treaty partnership means for us today". Susan would be glad of your prayers for the success of this hui. The programme and registration form are available on our Dominican family website

Kaupapa: Reason for the hui. This year, 2014, we celebrate 200 years of the Gospel coming to Aotearoa New Zealand. Next year, 2015, is 175 years since the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Christians were closely involved in the events around the Treaty signing and have, therefore, a special role of guardianship for the Treaty relationship. This hui is an opportunity for Christians to consider together what honouring the Treaty partnership means for us today. All welcome.

The **ROSARY** is a treasure that has survived through centuries of history of the Order of Preachers. Tradition says that St Dominic received it from the hands of Our Lady herself. The prayer, whose development was slow until it was finally approved by the Dominican Pope Pius V in the 16th century, is a summary of the gospel, meditated on by Mary. **A meditation on the Rosary by fr. Constantine Mamo o.p.** An aviary is a large enclosure in which birds are kept.

A rosary is a rose garden in which roses are cultivated and can be admired.

Going up the Aventine Hill in Rome, there is one such rose garden, called roseto comunale which is in full bloom in May. Some of the roses are known for their shape, others for their colour, and others for their perfume. People visiting the rose-garden have much to admire in terms of roses.

Frequently Rome invites us to visit another rose-garden, the Rosary. It is not an enclosure in which to be confined, prevented from flying away or to be kept separated from others. It is an open space to be visited freely. Its roses are not plants that take their nourishment from the ground or from the warm sun, but are mysteries of life and death and resurrection which are firmly rooted in human life nourished by the Spirit of God.

When invited to contemplate the mysteries of the Rosary, we are presented with stories from the life of Christ, but we are not supposed to cultivate nostalgia for the past. Rather we are encouraged to consider our life in the light of what Jesus said, did and promised.

The mysteries of the Rosary, with their different shapes, colours and perfume, are linked by the Lord's prayer and ten Hail Mary, prayers which are intended to ask that God's will be done and that we be players in the building of His kingdom on earth. We acknowledge that we need God's daily bread and Mary's help to be freed from sin, as she invites us to do what her Son asks us to.

The Rosary is so rich that sometimes we are at a loss what to do. Do we contemplate the mysteries, or do we meditate the prayers? And how frequently we are distracted!

When I visit Rome's rose-garden I enjoy myself looking at the roses, taking time to look more closely at some of them, and often just admire the signs of life brought by the other fellow visitors. When Dominic spread the Rosary devotion, he offered us a tool with which to look at life in God's light of salvation.

When people ask me what to do when praying the Rosary, I tend to answer: enter the garden, let Mary guide you and enjoy the life you see in it!

In the introduction there is mention of an **E-Conference** which reflected on the papacy of Francis. There were 5 brief addresses which led to discussion in groups and on-line in between these 5 talks. Some thoughts from my notes (any errors are mine and not those of the speakers):

On Ecumenism

John 23rd said "The Church is called to be a gift of life to the whole world." In 1995 John Paul 2nd made a commitment to Ecumenism. **Francis says: "Little progress has been made towards unity."**

On Mercy

Peter was offered 3 opportunities to overcome the 3 cowardly acts of denial. How can we fail to see that the experience of mercy Peter needed and received made the "rock" of Peter's faith stronger? It follows that the centrality of Mercy is at the heart of the mission of Jesus, and must be central to the ministry of the papacy and of every baptised person. **Francis says: "A sign of the mission of the papacy is MERCY".**

Cardinal Caspar has expressed the call to develop a deeper theology of the mercy of God. He said "truth without mercy would be cold, off-putting and wounding. Our goal must always be to lead people to God, to open up a pathway to God."

Mercy takes precedence even over justice.

On human frailty

Francis is deeply conscious of his own sinfulness. **Francis says “This is me, a sinner upon whom the Lord has turned his gaze.”**

On contemplation

The whole life of Jesus is love. Our infinite sadness can only be cured by an infinite love. **Francis says “We need to recover a contemplative spirit.”**

We must spend more time reflecting on how Jesus acted with people - this is what Francis is asking of us today. **Francis says “We are doctrine rich but reflective poor.”**

On poverty

God’s heart has a special place for the poor. Francis has a heart full of love - his priority from the start has been for the poorest, the weakest, and the most vulnerable. Before blessing the people awaiting the announcement of his papacy he first asked the people to bless him.

Francis says “Where there is no place for the poor there is no place for God.”

On being pastoral

Francis says:

“We can encounter God in all places.”

“A preacher needs to contemplate the Word and to contemplate the people.”

“A shepherd should smell like his sheep!”

“Come and pray is a gesture of closeness.”

We see the qualities of Francis as love, joy, a discerning heart. **Francis calls us to be “people of joy” and “facilitators of grace”.**

On women

He has made pronouncements of the equality of women. He has washed the feet of women in prison. He has assured all that there is a place for women in the Church.

Francis says “Women were the first witnesses.”

“Women give an insight into the nature of God.”

“God stands with us in our suffering.”

“The place of women matters and we must make a place for their decision making.”

“Look at the influence of St Claire on St Francis!”

His use of inclusive language, his abhorrence of the trafficking of women, his commending of this ministry and work of women and religious – all give us insight into the mind and heart of Francis.

The plight of shipwrecked refugees, of Syrians, Ethiopians, Palestinians, the health and the physical suffering of women all are major concerns of Francis.

The media talk of “the Francis effect” and hence ask (with respect to issues) “What is the voice of women?” Francis is being asked by women to read their work and reports of their experience of Church.

On the media

Francis says “Communication must be about forming meaningful interactions.” He is well aware of the power of communication but insists communication is human rather than technical achievement.

The media love his one-liners. 13.7million follow him on Twitter. His “selfies” go global. Wisely he declined Facebook. Significant images from his papacy:

- Embracing tenderly a disfigured man.
- Praying at the Holy Wall in Jerusalem.

On evangelisation

Francis criticises those who want to debate everything. **Francis says “People want to know the things that ultimately give meaning to their lives.”**

One of the most important words for Francis is “frontier”. A self-referential church is death. Life grows when it is given away. Francis prefers a bruised, hurting church. Honour and dignity are the only things left to the poor – the last thing they need is condemnation. The church must be where love is freely given with doors widely open. Eucharist is not a prize for the virtuous but a powerful medicine.

Francis desires:

- **A poor church which serves the poor, not a fortress church for the approved. We must have an option for the poor – homeless, addicted, refugees, abandoned.**
- **The poor at the heart of the new evangelisation.** We are wrong to think of evangelisation as bringing people back to church. Only the beauty of God can attract. Francis, in his preaching, is not just doing the poor a service but also serving evangelisation.
- **A pilgrim, discerning church. We will only know the Spirit if the Spirit is within us. Discernment needs to be out of positivity and consolation and peace.**
- **A warm, missionary, discerning beautiful church.** This will require of us to have big hearts, big minds and courage.
- **Pastoral conversion. We need patience.** We have a lot to learn about Episcopal collegiality, and synodality. Depository of faith is one thing the way it is presented is another.
- **Dialogue. Francis wants to talk with us and is not frightened of the real questions. Francis likened the two on the road to Emmaus as the people who have left the church. We need a church unafraid of going forth and entering into their conversation.** - Michele Ness

PRAYER OF SAINT DOMINIC

May God the Father who made us bless us.

May God the Son send his healing among us.

May God the Holy Spirit move within us and give us eyes to see, ears to hear with, and hands that your work might be done.

May we walk and preach the word of God to all.

May the angel of peace watch over us and lead us at last by God’s grace to the Kingdom.

God bless you all, Michele and Kay

The 70th Jubilee celebrations of Saint Dominic's School for Deaf

