Year of Mercy nears its end – or is it just the beginning?

WRITTEN BY DOMINIQUE KIM

Pope Francis declared 2016 a “Jubilee year,” the goal being to grow in our faith, increase service to others, and promote a sense of unity throughout the Catholic Church. Our Holy Father named this year an “Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy” to highlight God’s overwhelming mercy to us, with a focus on healing and forgiveness. The Faithful are encouraged to spend more time in prayer, attend confession, and evangelize.

This Year of Mercy is especially meaningful since it is “providentially synced with 800 years of Dominican existence,” notes Pastor Father Michael Hurley, O.P. In celebration of the 800th anniversary, Pope Francis has granted permission for St. Dominic’s to have a “Holy Door,” allowing the faithful who participate in a pilgrimage to a Dominican Church or shrine to enter through the door and be granted a plenary indulgence.

While the Year of Mercy ends November 20th, the Holy Door will remain open until the conclusion of the 800th Anniversary of the Dominican Order on January 21, 2017.

In order to receive an indulgence, the faithful must meet five stipulations:

1. Prayerfully walk through the Holy Jubilee Doors with the intention to receive this grace or to make it for a departed loved one
2. Have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin
3. Have sacramentally confessed their sins within the last month
4. Receive the Holy Eucharist
5. Pray for the intentions of the Pope and Universal Church

Then after receiving the mercy of this plenary indulgence, we are called to put our blessings into action and share

“YEAR OF MERCY” CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
Brother Andrew Thomas Kang | Age: 24

**Grew up:** Fullerton, California  
**College and Major:** University of California, San Diego; Bachelor of Science in Computer Science with a Minor in Music  
**Before the Novitiate:** Worked as a Front-end web developer on the IT Marketing team at Salesforce in San Francisco  
**Attracted by:** The union of contemplative and active life; the intellectual tradition; fidelity to truth, reasonable and revealed; the ordering of all things to the charism of preaching for the salvation of souls  
**Food:** Korean BBQ, Sushi, Tacos  
**Hobbies/interests:** Singing, Playing Guitar, Indoor Rock Climbing  
**Favorite Saint:** Sts. Francis of Assisi and Thomas Aquinas, for preaching the glory of God as both Creator and Redeemer, one in the radical example of his life and the other in the unmatched profundity of his teaching  
**Interesting Facts:** I can solve a Rubik’s cube in under a minute

Brother Paul Maria Müllner | Age: 25

**Grew up:** Boise, Idaho  
**College and Major:** Boise State University, Mechanical Engineering  
**Before the Novitiate:** Worked in construction  
**Attracted by:** The zeal for the salvation of souls; the clear charism of preaching Christ; the liturgy of the hours  
**Food:** Cheese  
**Hobbies/interests:** Hiking, Fencing, Board Games  
**Favorite Saint:** Whichever one I am reading about at the time  
**Interesting Facts:** I walked the Camino de Santiago, from Switzerland to Santiago, Spain, a 1500 mile pilgrimage

Brother John Winkowitsch | Age: 37

**Grew up:** Cut Bank, Montana  
**College and Major:** Thomas Aquinas College, Liberal Arts; The Catholic University of America, Philosophy  
**Before the Novitiate:** I was a teacher for 4 years (Life Science, Physical Science, Algebra II, Geometry, Anatomy & Physiology, and Latin) before starting seminary  
**Attracted by:** God  
**Food:** The Montana Club Garlic Button Sirloin Steak  
**Hobbies/interests:** Billiards, Skiing, Football, Karate, Hacky Sack, Board Games  
**Favorite Saint:** St. John the Apostle  
**Interesting Facts:** I spent 5 weeks in Japan, can do yo-yo tricks, and have been shot
What is the Novitiate?

The novitiate is the beginning period of formation for those entering the Dominican order. It is a year-long period dedicated to introducing men to the Dominican life, and letting them live it. It also helps the novices discern whether or not this is their true calling (and to discern if the Dominican community is a good fit for them). The brothers study, pray, preach, minister and, especially, learn what it means to be part of the 800-year tradition of St. Dominic’s order.

Brother Paschal Strader | Age: 29

Grew up: Yucca Valley, CA
College and Major: CSU San Bernardino, Computer Science and Applied Physics; UC Santa Barbara, Physics (concentration in experimental astronomy)
Before the Novitiate: I was a graduate student working in a research lab that developed a new type of telescope camera, capable of observing planets in other solar systems
Attracted by: The emphasis on studying and sharing Truth, the balance of contemplative and active life, and the community
Food: Enchiladas
Hobbies/interests: Stargazing, Whittling, Bowling
Favorite Saint: Sts. Thomas Aquinas, Dominic, and Paschal Baylon
Interesting Facts: I can make a functional top out of a paper clip

Brother Ian Mary Parelius | Age: 26

Grew up: Petaluma, CA
College and Major: Saint Mary’s College of California, Philosophy; Boston College, Theology (concentration in systematic theology)
Before the Novitiate: FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionary in Birmingham, Alabama
Attracted by: The communal life of prayer and study for the sake of preaching
Food: Bacon-wrapped filet mignon
Hobbies/interests: Piano, Organ, Swimming, Skiing, Basketball
Favorite Saint: Sts. John the Evangelist, Paul the Apostle, and Augustine
Interesting Facts: I swam from Alcatraz to SF in high school; my last name originates with a Viking family

Brother Athanasius | Age: 29

Grew up: La Habra, CA
College and Major: Cal State Los Angeles, Philosophy
Before the Novitiate: Software Engineer at Boeing
Attracted by: The synthesis of the spiritual and the intellectual lives
Food: Pizza
Hobbies/interests: Guitar, Literature, Philosophy, Ancient Languages
Favorite Saint: St. Thomas Aquinas
Interesting Facts: I am a 5th generation Angelino

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WHY I GIVE
BY MATT SAFRANEK

St. Dominic’s has changed my life. Because of the sacrifices of the people here, those who came back before us, and of course God, I can truly say I am a better person today than the one who first walked in these doors many years ago.

I give to St. Dominic’s, because St. Dominic’s has given so much to me. When someone you love gives you something special, you just can’t help but want to do something for them in return. That’s why I’ve volunteered in several different ministries over the years. It’s also why I give to the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal and make my Sunday offering through eOffering. Thanks to eOffering, I’ve been able to give a consistent amount each Sunday, year after year (even when I’m out of town or arrive at Mass with only lint in my wallet).

I encourage you to ask yourself, “What has St. Dominic’s given me?” Perhaps it’s new friends or even a spouse, hope in times of trouble, knowledge, peace, or a new relationship with God. Now ask yourself, “What have I given to St. Dominic’s?” If you feel like you could be doing more, the Year of Mercy article has a couple of good places to start. I guarantee that once you do, your life will never be the same.

God’s mercy with others through spiritual and corporal works. Recall Matthew (25:40): “And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Father Michael says there are a wide variety of ways parishioners can carry forward the graces received from the Year of Mercy after it draws to an end. One way is through sharing your time and talent. St. Dominic’s Community Service ministry provides food and clothing for the homeless, as well as spiritual ministry and support to those in jail or sick in hospitals. The need is never greater than during the upcoming holiday season.

To explore different volunteer possibilities, please contact Sister Colleen McDermott at (415) 674-0432 or colleen@stdominics.org or visit stdominics.org/ministries.

Another way is to share one’s treasure. For example, the parish currently is $34,000 short of meeting its $208,000 obligation due at the end of December for the Archdiocese Annual Appeal. Digitizing your Sunday offering at stdominics.org/parish/donations also helps the parish.

Year of Mercy
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Consolation & Grief Ministry brings healing
BY KATHLEEN HOLLIDAY

Deacon Chuck McNeil introduced the Consolation & Grief Ministry over ten years ago. The ministry, a formal support group for those among us who have lost a loved one in the last year, continues to help parishioners to this day.

This journey begins with those who have suffered the loss of a loved one and brings compassion to those in mourning. The structured process is one of education and sharing. It utilizes a variety of tools including include prayer, poetry, art, and the book The Courage to Grieve by Judy Tatelbaum. With a loss, grief can invade our daily lives. Participants learn that tears are often the jewels of remembrance, and grief is praise to the one who has gone.

The group meets on specific Sundays from 3:30 – 5:30 PM for eight weeks. A new group is now forming and will begin meeting soon. “The holidays and special days (birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc.) can be difficult,” said Deacon Chuck.

St. Dominic’s also offers a Memorial Mass once a year in the fall for those who have lost a loved one in the last year.

You can find a brochure on the Consolation & Grief Ministry in the parish office and also in the vestibule near the main entrance. For those interested, please leave a message for Deacon Chuck at the parish office (415) 567-7824 or you can e-mail him at deaconchuck@stdominics.org.