

News from Fanjeaux

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N° 6

ASCENSION
2010

S.H.O.P. History Course Goes Around the World!

It is gratifying for anyone who launches a new venture to see that it clearly responds to a need. That would seem to be the case with the study of the history of Dominican women and the S.H.O.P. Association's decision to launch a distance learning course .

At our headquarters in Fanjeaux, as we prepared the course back in the autumn, we did wonder whether there would be many students wanting to sign up for it. January 6th, traditionally the feast of the Epiphany was chosen for the launch. And lo and behold within the first three months over two hundred enrolments have been received: from Dominican women all over the world. Our students live in the following countries:

Europe: England, France, Ireland, Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, Portugal.

Americas: USA, Canada, Peru, Bolivia, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, West Indies

Asia Pacific: Japan, Vietnam, Australia, New Zealand

But we still await our first students from Africa.

So far two Modules have been

launched:

I *The Beginnings of the Dominican Order*

II *Dominican Women in the early centuries of the Order*

Module I is now available in the three official languages of the Order : English, French and Spanish. Module II is in English and Spanish for the moment, but the French version will come on stream as soon as possible.

The course units are mostly delivered in the form of pdf file attachments on e-mails, but so that no one be excluded from following the course, hard copies by snail mail are also available.

Texts for further reading are available on our website, where there is also a forum for students to exchange ideas. Some students have already submitted written assignments. These are of course optional.

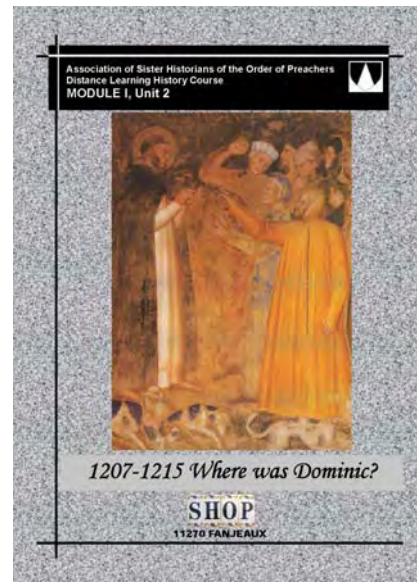
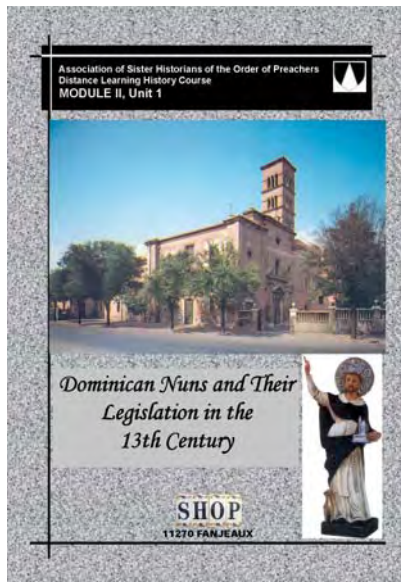
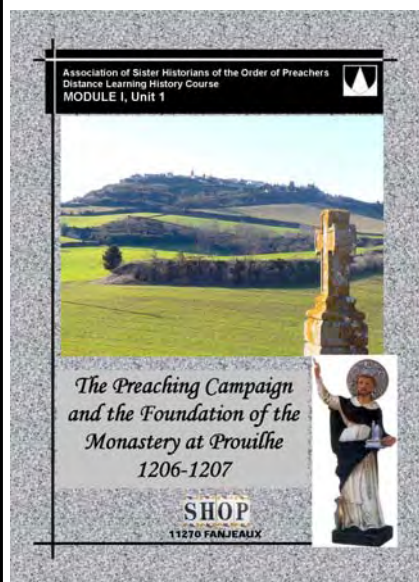
↓ *The covers of the three course units that are already available.*

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *New publications*
- *Become a member of the S.H.O.P. Association*
- *The international dimension of Dominican history*



S.H.O.P. Library Catalogue on Line

A start has been made on the task of publishing the catalogue of the S.H.O.P. Association Library at Fanjeaux on Internet at <http://shop.op.org> Sisters Jean Reimer (Grand Rapids) and Patricia Hannan (Dominican Sisters of New Zealand) invested a lot of hard work in this catalogue during their time in Fanjeaux in 2007 and 2008. So far the pages for nuns, sisters and Dominican family have been posted. It was not easy to know exactly how to present the material, as our collection is so specialised that the usual library cataloguing systems (Dewey or Library of Congress for example) are not really suitable. We have devised our own thematic approach, which is explained on the website.

↓ *A sample page from the S.H.O.P. library catalogue as it appears on line*

S.H.O.P. library catalogue						
Author	Title	Place of Publication	Publisher	Date	Edition	Language
CONGREGATIONS						
General Works						
Domenicane, Congregazioni	Articles in Dizionario degli istituti di perfezione					
Davy MM.	Les Dominicaines (coll. Les grands Ordres monastiques et instituts religieux)	Paris	Bernard Grasset	* 1934		
Dominican Sisters International	Liturgy for the fifth General assembly, april 30-May 4, 2007, Rome	Rome	Dominican Sisters International	* 2007		
Dominican Sisters of Stone	The Conventual Third Order of St Dominic and its development in England	London	Burns Oates & Washbourne	* 1923		
			Centre universitaire de recherche droit et			

News from the House of St Dominic

Shortly before Easter, everyone in Fanjeaux was delighted to learn that Fr Yves-Henri Rivière of the Dominican Province of Toulouse and assigned to the Convent at Rangueil was newly appointed to responsibility for the House of St Dominic, in replacement for the sad loss of Fr Elie-Pascal Epinoux.

He will continue to reside in Toulouse, but we hope to see a lot of him in Fanjeaux, especially during the summer months. Fr Yves-Henri has already initiated an ambitious programme of work to bring the house up to current requirements concerning electrical installations etc.

We wish him well in his new ministry to the many visitors who pass through Fanjeaux each year, and are keen to learn about St Dominic.



↑ *Fr Yves-Henri Rivière op in Haïti where he was previously assigned.*

Fanjeaux-Chicago SKYPE link-up planned for July

On the occasion of the next "In Our Keeping" conference for Dominican archivists scheduled for July 8th-11th at Dominican University (River Forest, Illinois), it is hoped to take full advantage of modern technology and hold a question and answer session between the S.H.O.P. Association house in Fanjeaux and the McGreal Centre housed on Dominican University campus. It is very exciting to be able to be in such direct communication with Sr Janet Welsh op and others researching in the field of the history of religious women. Catch up with the activities of the our colleagues in Chicago on www.dom.edu/mcgreal

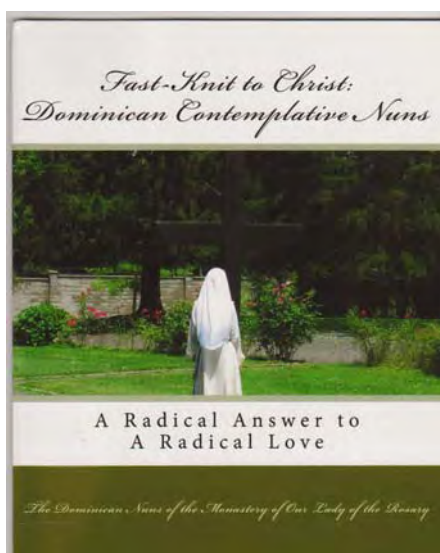
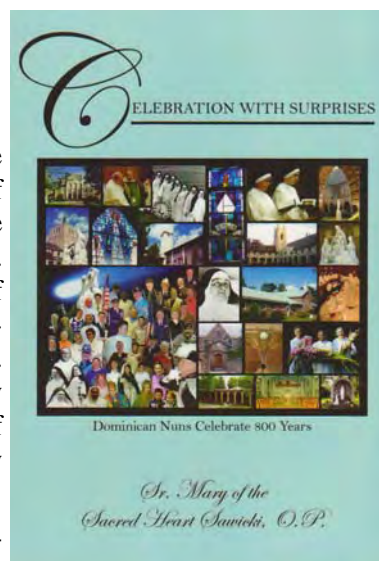
New Books About Dominican Women

***Celebration with Surprises*, Sr Mary of the Sacred Heart Sawicki op; Outskirts Press Inc, Denver, 2010, \$ 30.95**

In her new book, *Celebration with Surprises*, Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart of the West Springfield, MA Monastery of the Mother of God chronicles her community's reception of the announcement of the 800th Jubilee Year, and their particular form of celebrating this event. She shares with her reader how her monastery decided to make each of their monthly public Vesper Service a special jubilee celebration, starting with the opening in December of 2006 and ending in January 2008. Readers learn of each month's chosen theme, preparations, and specially invited guests. Participants are also given a voice through the sharing of their own experiences of how the celebration touched their lives, many times in a very personal manner.

But Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart does than just share a particular jubilee festivity of the West Springfield Monastery of the Mother of God. She cleverly weaves into her narrative the larger story of the history of the Order of Preachers, starting with the founding of Prouilhe and bringing the reader through the many centuries, down to the most recent foundation made in the United States. Other monasteries collaborated with this venture, providing Sister with details of their own foundation story along with pictures, as well as reflections from special events such as the Master's Retreat for the Nuns given in Michigan, USA. These accounts are well researched and told in an engaging style. The book is a combination of celebration, history, and personal memoir joined into one story.

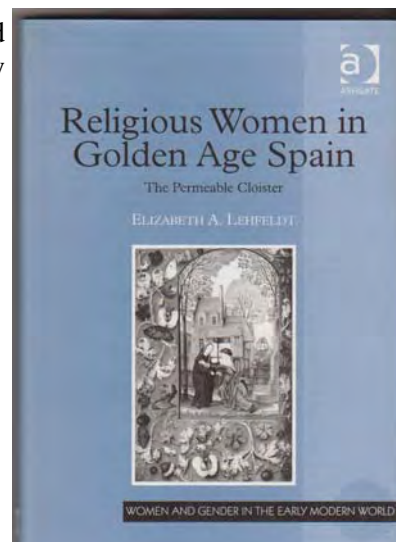
Reviewed by Amy Gracey, Caterina Benincasa Monastery, Delaware, USA



← This beautiful little book, one senses lovingly compiled by the Dominican nuns of Summit NJ, aims to present contemplative life in the Order of Preachers to potential candidates, but its interest ranges much wider than this might suggest. The excellent photographs do indeed present a temptingly idyllic vision of the world within the monastic enclosure, as various aspects of the life of the sisters are dealt with: silence, rosary, speaking with God, community life, the structure of the monastic day..

This highly recommended publication can be ordered directly on the monastery's website at

www.nunsopsummit.org



This third book is most welcome for English speakers who would like to learn more about this very important period for the expansion of religious life (including that of Dominican sisters) in Spain in the 15th—17th centuries, the period when Spain was conquering the New World of the Americas.

Elizabeth A. LEHFELDT, *Religious Women in Golden Age Spain—the permeable cloister*, Ashgate, 2005



sister historians of the order of preachers

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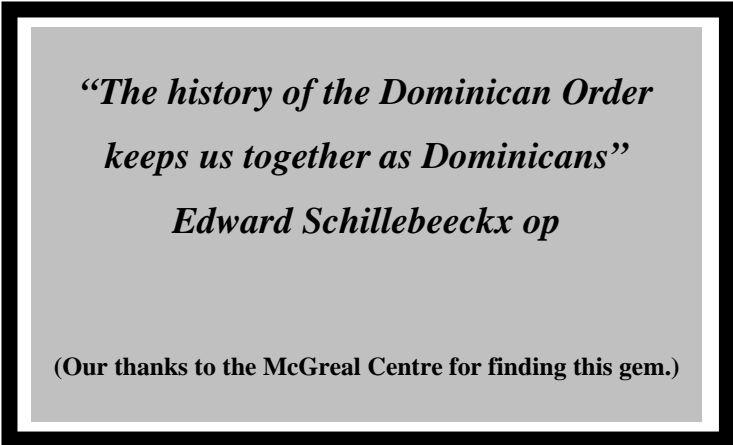
Sr Barbara Beaumont op
(Herne, Belgium)

**Become a member
of the S.H.O.P.
Association!**

**It's easy! Send us a note of
your name and address with
20 €. You will then receive
our newsletter regularly and
be informed of publications
and events. You can also make
use of the facilities—
accommodation and library —
at Fanjeaux.**

**All donations are most
gratefully received — they go
towards acquiring new books
for the library devoted to the
history of Dominican women.
Donations of books are always
welcome also.**

The Association of Sister Historians of the Order of Preachers is defined in its statutes as: "a resource for documentation, communication and formation at the service of Dominican women, religious and lay, through the study of their histories."



VISITORS TO FANJEAUX

Have visited S.H.O.P. HQ since the last Newsletter came out,

Fr Brian Pierce op, Promoter of Nuns at Santa Sabina, Rome,

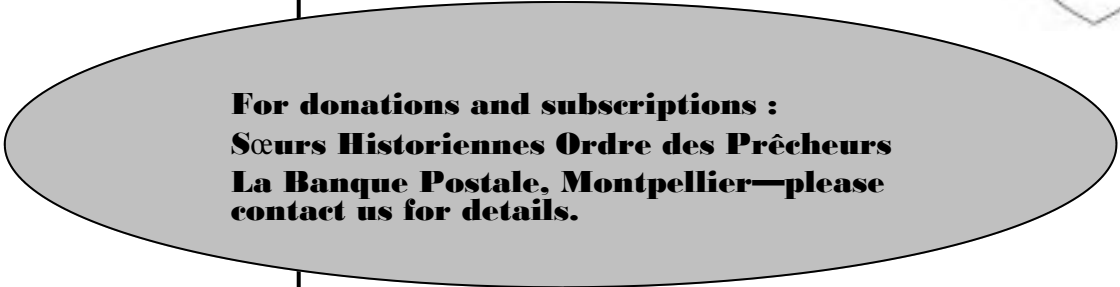
Fr Francis Marneffe op, Lille former provincial of the Dominican province of France

Fr Paul Bernard Hodel, Chair of Church History at the University of Fribourg Switzerland.

As we got to press, a group of Australian pilgrims in the steps of St Dominic has already left home and is due to arrive in Fanjeaux in a few days' time. They are led by Sr Elizabeth Hellwig op and Fr Kevin Toomey op, and have invited Sr Barbara of S.H.O.P. to give a presentation and accompany some of their visits.



The statue of the Virgin Mary at Fanjeaux—May is the month in which we celebrate Mary as patroness of the Order of Preachers



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