



IN HIS NAME • THIRD QUARTER 2023

— *From our officers* —

# 2023 LAY PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



**Living Pillar of the Community**

*[...] true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth [...] John 4:23*

The chapter representatives attended the 2023 lay provincial council (LPC) on July 27 – 29, 2023, at Vallombrosa Retreat Center in Menlo Park, California. Among the Pillars of Dominican Life, is the pillar of community, which enables the Third Order of the Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic, to gather at Holy Mass, to receive Holy Communion together, to pray, to meet, and to meet in assembly in common with Our Lord, as it says in Holy Scripture,

*Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brethren dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head[...]*

**Psalm 133.**

After gathering for prayer, Holy Mass, and a meal, the LPC gathered at the conference center to do the business of lay members in the Province. The business completed by the LPC includes:

**1. Observers.** In addition to the chapter representatives, the LPC this year included nine observers from various chapters across the Province. The hope for the future is that observers will be included in the LPC. This encourages the local Chapter to see the work of the LPC.

**2. Starting a new chapter,** guidelines, and initial and ongoing recruitment. The LPC encouraged the use of guidelines in forming a chapter, as well as recruitment. Part of the recruitment process includes setting up tables after Holy Mass; diocesan newspaper announcements; local radio PSAs, *Dominican Moment* clips, and Catholic radio programs, among other ideas.

**3. Formation Commission.** The LPC passed a resolution establishing a program for formation development, which includes nine lay members plus two friars, including Fr. Augustine Hilander, O.P., and Fr. Eric Raftery, O.P. The Formation Commission will hold its initial meeting at the end of August or early September, with the goal of submitting to the 2024 LPC a first-year formation program. The meeting will discuss the method of developing the initial formation program, the goals, and appointing a chairperson and a secretary for the coming year.

In addition, there was a great deal of enthusiasm among members and observers at the LPC to be included as a part of the for-

mation goals; therefore, auxiliary members will also be included in the work of the Commission.

The Commission will put together an outline of a formation program; then gather books, articles, online links, encyclicals, biblical sources, and a number of resources, that will aid each chapter in its formation program. Once the Commission completes its work, it will submit the first-year program to the LPC president, then to the LPC for its review and approval. During each stage, the outlines, guidelines, and resources will be placed on the province's website.

**4. Particular Directory Commission.** The LPC established the P.D. Commission, to encourage a thorough review of the P.D., to communicate with each Chapter individually in the process, and gather every proposal over the next year, and submit the same to the 2024 LPC for its review and approval.

The Commission will also gather guidelines to be referenced and attached to the P.D., that are guidelines for each Chapter, including but not limited to the subject matters of starting a new chapter; the ritual and words of profession for each stage of becoming a lay Dominican; the oath of office of each chapter officer and council member as well as provincial officers; inclusive of confidentiality; and, the standards and use of the Dominican habit for burial of a lay member.

**5. Website.** The new online promoter is the LPC secretary, Alejandra Barajas. The LPC approved the development and funding of a comprehensive new website. It will be unfolded in the weeks ahead, but the goal is to transfer the old website to a user-friendly and accessible website, that includes all the resources readily available with storage for all the years ahead made accessible to chapters.

The resources online will include a form library, a library of online books, a formation program compendium, and annals or records of past LPCs and official records of the lay people of the Most Holy Name of Jesus Province.

CHAPTER EMAIL: Each chapter is encouraged to establish a *chapter email* to be used online. A *chapter email* is an email that is directed to chapter officers, not individual persons. In other words, as chapter officers change, the email address remains the same, and is passed on to officers as new officers are elected. For example, the *chapter email* address for the Boise, St Margaret of Castello Chapter is [chapter@dominicanidaho.org](mailto:chapter@dominicanidaho.org). Each chapter can obtain its own domain or use generally accessible domains such as *gmail.com* or like domains to maintain a *chapter email*. Once established, please forward the *chapter email* to [john@keenan.org](mailto:john@keenan.org).

Each chapter's email will be used on the provincial website as a contact email for those inquiring about the Dominican life.

**6. Apostolates.** The LPC is very thankful for its apostolates, including the 3W Medical Clinic in Seattle, as well as the DEEP program, that has the goal of teaching English to the Vietnam Dominicans. Helen Nguyen is the director of 3W and her work with women and men is greatly valued by the LPC. Further, the work of DEEP is a serious need of those seeking to read, study, and speak in English. Mike Turner is its coordinator. The LPC voted to fund a small donation to each apostolate in support of the respective work being accomplished.

Lastly, the LPC elected three officers, which includes the LPC vice-president, the secretary, and the treasurer. First, let's recognize the past officers. Gloria Miller filled the position of vice-president very well. She completed a visitation of all the Chapters in Arizona over the last year, and was very gracious

and able in performing her office. I will miss Gloria very much, but I intend to stay in touch and hopefully we will see Gloria again at the LPC.

Kathy Stone, who served as LPC treasurer for the past nine years, yes nine years! Kathy is a pillar in the LPC with a quick wit and experience like no other. She will be greatly missed by all. Nonetheless, I am sure we will see her again!

The LPC elected Brian White, a member of the Chapter, as the LPC vice president; Alejandra Barajas, to continue to serve as the LPC secretary

In closing, a lot of work was completed at the 2023 LPC. It is our hope that this work will bear fruit over the next year.

If you have any questions, be sure to contact me at [john@keenan.org](mailto:john@keenan.org). The work that each Chapter does in formation bears an immeasurable wealth to each Dominican soul and to Our Lord. That is why we are developing the formation resources to be accessible to each Chapter. Please pray for the work of each Commission and the LPC. God willing, the work of the LPC and the Chapters will continue with His blessing.

Blessed Solemnity of St. Dominic! *Nemo presemitur malus, nisi probetur.*

**MR. JOHN KEENAN, O.P.**

President





