

JUSTICE  
& PEACE

EUROPE - MIDDLE EAST

NEWS

01/2020

# EDITORIAL

The Newsletter is structured around four main sections

- **« EUROPE and MIDDLE EAST » PROMOTERS**
- **VISIT**
- **INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS**
- **TRAINING**

You will thus read a presentation of the promoters for Europe and the Middle East, and then echoes of a visit to Lebanon in the autumn of 2019, in connection with the Dominican sisters of Iraq who, for several decades, have been living an intense mission there in the service of underprivileged children.

Important international meetings have taken place: the International Dominican Commission for Justice and Peace in Rome in October 2019, at the time of the Synod for the Amazon, and COP25 in Madrid in December 2019. Spanish Dominicans have been particularly mobilized during these events, together with the delegation of the Order to the United Nations.

Finally, the Training section offers resources for training. In partnership with DOMUNI, online courses are offered: Social Doctrine of the Church, Human Rights, International Law, Children's Rights, Ecology, Social and Political Philosophy, Biblical courses related to societal themes... in French, English, or Spanish.

Last but not least, an online seminar is offered and will take place in the spring of 2020: « Announcing Jesus in prison ». Feel free to register.

Happy reading!

*Fr. Xavier Gomez et Sr. Marie Monnet, op*

# EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST PROMOTERS



Fr. Xabier Gomez Garcia, , born in 1970, is a Dominican friar of the Province of Spain. He lives in Madrid. Having been ordained a priest in 1994 for the Diocese of San Sebastian, he joined the Order in 2003 after serving in parishes and helping underprivileged populations. He has a Bachelor's degree in Theology and a Master's degree in Family Mediation, and he specializes in Intercultural Social Mediation. Several missions were or are still entrusted to him: Parish Vicar, Provincial Councilor, Promoter of the Youth and Vocation Ministry, Pastoral Coordinator at the Dominican College of Atocha in Madrid, and Provincial Promoter for the Jubilee of the Order of Preachers. He also works on provincial projects with contemporary artists. Being against human trafficking, he coordinates the Human Rights Observatory of the Dominicans in Spain as part of his commitment to the cause of migrants. Br. Xavier Gomez was appointed in 2016 by the Master of the Order as Justice and Peace Promoter for Europe and the Middle East.



Sr. Marie Monnet, born in 1978, is a Dominican sister of the Congregation of Our Lady of Fichermont and lives in Brussels. Doctor of Law and Theology, she is currently Vice- Rector of Domuni Universitas ([www.domuni.eu](http://www.domuni.eu)). She is a lawyer at the Paris Bar Association. As a Councilor to the Prioress General, she is the bursar of her congregation. Sr. Marie Monnet was elected in 2019 at the DSI General Assembly in Rome as Justice and Peace Promoter for Europe and the Middle East for a three-year term.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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# VISIT

## Echoes from Lebanon

I got to discover Lebanon at the end of September, as summer, on this side of the Mediterranean, continued on. Lebanon is one of the smallest countries in the world (10000km<sup>2</sup>).

The Lebanese have been traders since ancient times. Even today, among the 10 biggest fortunes in the world are 7 Lebanese.

Recent conflicts have created significant tensions, with Lebanon hosting many refugees (Palestinians, more recently Syrians). The civil war ravaged the country between 1975 and 1990. Plural, Lebanon is made of different religious groups: Shiite Muslims, Sunni Muslims, nearly 18 Christian communities, Jewish communities, Druze communities... An eastern mosaic, at the gateway to the West, Lebanon also has a very noteworthy diaspora.





Since October 17, Lebanese of all faiths have taken to the streets to protest economic conditions, corruption, and the political power system.

Among the Dominican Congregations present, the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine (IRAQ) have established an orphanage and have been taking care of it for more than 40 years. They welcomed me there with great warmth and told me of their mission.

About seventeen girls and young women between the ages of 4 and 17 live there. In four decades, dozens of them have grown up and studied there and are now working mothers, integrated into society.







**« Women of my country,  
the same light hardens your body,  
the same darkness calms it ;  
softly melancholic in your metamorphoses.  
The same suffering cracks your lips,  
and your eyes are set by a unique goldsmith.**

**You,  
who reassure mountains,  
who make men believe they are men,  
and ashes they are fertile,  
and the land that it is immutable.  
Women of my country,  
you, who in the chaos find what is lasting. »**

*Nadia Tueni, Lebanese poetess*

# INTERNATIONALS MEETINGS

## **International Dominican Commission for Justice, Peace, and care of Crea- tion, Rome, October 2019.**

The annual meeting of the International Dominican Commission for Justice, Peace, and care of Creation took place from October 6 to 12, 2019. It is the only commission of the Order of Preachers where all the branches of the Dominicans are represented to reflect, evaluate, program, coordinate, and promote preaching in the field of justice, peace, and human rights. A mission rooted in evangelical and Dominican spirituality guided by the Social Teaching of the Church and the living tradition of the Order.

The meeting was also an opportunity to get to know the new promoters who were in charge: Asia

Pacific, Europe, and DSI International. We were happy to meet the new Master of the Order, Brother Gerard Timoner III, whose advice we have put into practice. We also had a meeting on the intellectual life with Brother Pablo Sicouly, socius est un mot latin pour dire “associé, assistant” with whom we had an exchange about the Salamanca Process.

A large number of days were dedicated to the Dominican month of peace, to information about the activities of the regions, and to plan for the next period. Soon we will inform you about the program for the Europe and Middle East region.





**Dominicans at COP25  
in Madrid.  
« Time for action »**

Spanish Dominicans actively participated in the COP25 in Madrid, thanks to the coordination with Dominicans For Justice and Peace (Geneva). Eight members of the Dominicans, four per week, were accredited as observers during COP25 activities. .







The Dominicans in Madrid organized a program of parallel activities, especially an interreligious day on the theme of « Hope and Action », a workshop on the links between climate and human rights, and a prayer for the care of the « common house ». They also participated in the climate march with all of the ecclesial organizations, during a diocesan day, avec l'Eucharistie dominicale (= l'Eucharistie du Dimanche) and an exhibition on human rights in relation to education which was entitled « Silent Violence ». This way, we can help to promote commitment to sustainable development and to the care of the « common house », by being faithful to the teachings of Pope Francis in the Laudato Si encyclical.







**SAVE THE DATE**

Next Meeting For Promoteurs JP Europe and Middle East :  
**Convento San Domenico de Fiésolo (Italia)**  
June, 22-25th



# TRAINING

These 100% online training courses are offered in partnership with DOMUNI-UNIVERSITAS, the International Dominican University:

[www.domuni.eu](http://www.domuni.eu)

Click on each title to access the online description of each course.

## FRENCH COURSES

**DROIT INTERNATIONAL  
HUMANITAIRE**

**LA NON-VIOLENCE, HISTOIRE,  
THÉORIE ET PRATIQUE**

**DROIT INTERNATIONAL DES  
RÉFUGIÉS**

**A LA SOURCE DU DROIT  
INTERNATIONAL**

**LES THÉORIES DE LA  
RECONNAISSANCE**

**LA JUSTICE SOCIALE CHEZ LES  
PROPHÈTES**

**INITIATION A LA DOCTRINE  
SOCIALE DE L'EGLISE**

**DROIT INTERNATIONAL DES  
DROITS DE LA PERSONNE**

**DROIT RÉGIONAL ET  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIF AUX  
DROITS DE L'ENFANT ET LA  
MISE EN OEUVRE**

**LA PROTECTION DE  
L'ENVIRONNEMENT DANS LES  
CONFLITS ARMÉS**

**DOCTRINE SOCIALE DE L'EGLISE**

**LES FEMMES DANS LES  
PÉRIODES DE POST-CONFLIT :  
ANALYSE DES GRANDS ENJEUX**

**CE QUE LES PHILOSOPHES  
DISENT DU VIVRE-ENSEMBLE**

**ECO-THÉOLOGIE**

**HISTOIRE ET ENJEUX ETHIQUES  
DE LA MONDIALISATION**

**DROIT INTERNATIONAL PÉNAL**

**LA LIBRE CIRCULATION**

**INTRODUCTION AU DROIT  
INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC**

**DU DEVOIR DE DÉSOBÉIR**

**DIEU MIGRANT**



## **ENGLISH COURSES**

**HUMAN RIGHTS 1  
INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP RIGHTS**

**HUMAN RIGHTS 2  
A CHRISTIAN VIEW**

**SOCIAL POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING**

**CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE  
MODERN THEORY OF HUMAN  
RIGHTS: LACK OF A COHERENT  
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

**INTRODUCTION TO  
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN  
RIGHTS LAW:  
THEORY AND PRACTICE**

**INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW**

**INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC LAW**

**INTERNATIONAL  
HUMANITARIAN LAW**

**JOHN LOCKE'S EPISTEMOLOGY  
AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**

**POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY: AN  
INTRODUCTION**

**INTRODUCTION TO  
PHILOSOPHY OF LAW**

## **ITALIAN COURSES**

**INTRODUZIONE ALLA DOTTRI-  
NA SOCIALE DELLA CHIESA**

**INTRODUZIONE ALL'ETICA  
POLITICA**

## **SPANISH COURSES**

**en breve...**



# E-SEMINAR

## RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS IN LIBERAL OR DEMOCRATIC STATES

from April 20th to June 15th 2020  
presented by Isaac Mutelo

One of the main attractions of liberalism is its apparent ability to allow different groups and world-views – both religious and non-religious – to coexist. In this context, one of the major questions become whether religious groups should be granted preferential treatment in terms of exemptions or allowances in liberal or democratic states. Should religion be granted preferential treatment in a liberal or democratic state? If yes, why single out religion for special or preferential treatment? What makes religion so special such that it should merit special or preferen-

tial treatment in any democratic or liberal society? If religion should not be granted preferential treatment at all, then how far should religious groups go in influencing society generally? Such questions indicate why the issue of religious exemption or preferential treatment in liberal or democratic states an important topic is today. The core aim of this seminar is to critically examine the question of religious exemptions in liberal and democratic states based on actual case studies and current research on the theme.



## PEDAGOGICAL PROCEDURE :

- The seminary takes place on Moodle, Domuni's distance learning platform (moodle.domuni.eu). Each student logs in independently and works at his/her own pace, according to the established schedule.
- Each of the four steps lasts two weeks.
- During the first week of the step, each student is asked to write



a structured contribution to the seminary, using the texts and the problematic displayed by the professor. The paper has to comply with the following requirements:

- More or less 4,000 characters, including spaces.
- Written in a word-processing software (Word, Open Office, ..)
- The paper must be posted on Moodle on the current forum before the end of the week one.
- The second week of the step is dedicated to debates and discussions, supervised by the professor.
- The final mark takes into account the quality of the four contributions and the active participation in the debates.
- Each requires minimum 7 hours of personal work.



## REGISTRATION

Scholarships are available for Dominican participants to register for the courses and seminar.

Please write to **JPIC@domuni.eu**





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